

BIGHORN NATIONAL FOREST

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Land and Resource Management Plan - Draft

# Management Area Prescriptions

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## Introduction

The 1985 Land and Resource Management Plan (1985 Plan) for the Bighorn National Forest included specific direction on managing different land areas. These land areas were called management areas and are once again used in this Revised Plan. Each management area has a certain emphasis that will direct management activities on that piece of land. They include required prescriptions—standards and guidelines—so the Revised Plan and the Draft EIS (DEIS) refer to areas as management area prescriptions. These prescriptions are grouped into categories with similar management emphasis.

The descriptions of each management area prescription include:

- ◆ **Theme** – the general management direction.
- ◆ **Setting** – the general environment in which the management area is located
- ◆ **Desired Condition** – how the area will look and the opportunities available in the future.
- ◆ **Standards and Guidelines** – management direction that applies to a particular area. Where there is a conflict in direction, the more restrictive approach applies.

The following table compares the management areas used in the 1985 plan on the Bighorn National Forest with management area prescriptions used in the Revised Plan. There are now six major categories based on a continuum from least evidence of disturbance to most evidence of disturbance.

Table 2-1. Comparison of management area (MA) prescriptions in the draft revised forest plan and the 1985 Forest Plan.

New Management Area Prescriptions		Management Areas in the 1985 Plan
1.11	Pristine Wilderness	Same – per Plan Amendment 14, 8/1/98
1.13	Semi-primitive Wilderness	Same – per Plan Amendment 14, 8/1/98
1.2	Recommended Wilderness	No comparable area(s)
1.31	Backcountry Recreation Nonmotorized Use	3A Semi-primitive Nonmotorized Recreation 3B Primitive Recreation
1.32	Backcountry Recreation Nonmotorized Summer Use with Limited Winter Motorized Use	3A Semi-primitive Nonmotorized Recreation 3B Primitive Recreation

## MANAGEMENT AREA PRESCRIPTIONS

New Management Area Prescriptions		Management Areas in the 1985 Plan
1.33	Backcountry Recreation with Limited Summer and Winter Motorized Use	No comparable area(s)
1.5	National River System – Wild Rivers	10D Wild and Scenic River Corridors
2.1	Special Interest Areas	No comparable area(s)
2.2	Research Natural Areas	10A Research Natural Areas
3.1	Special Interest Area (Medicine Wheel)	10C Special Area
3.31	Backcountry Recreation Year-round Motorized Use	2A Semi-primitive Motorized Recreation
3.4	National River System – Scenic Rivers	10D Wild and Scenic River Corridors
3.5	Plant and Wildlife Habitat Management	4B Wildlife, Management Indicator Species (Unsuited Timber)
4.2	Scenery	2B Rural/Roaded Natural Recreation
4.3	Dispersed Recreation	No comparable area(s)
4.4	National River System – Recreation Rivers	10D Wild and Scenic River Corridors
5.11	Forest Vegetation Emphasis	4B Wildlife, Management Indicator Species (Suited Timber)
5.12	Rangeland Vegetation Emphasis	6A Livestock Grazing, Improve Forage Composition 6B Livestock Grazing, Maintain Forage Composition
5.13	Forest Products	7E Wood Fiber Production
5.4	Plant and Wildlife Habitat	4B Wildlife, Management Indicator Species (Suited Timber)
5.41	Deer and Elk Winter Range	5A Non-Forested Wildlife Winter Range 5B Forested Wildlife Winter Range
5.5	Dispersed Recreation and Forest Products	No comparable area(s)
8.22	Ski-based Resorts – Existing/Potential	1B Winter Sports Sites
<b>Prescriptions used in No-Action and Alternative A only:</b>		
8.21	Developed Recreation Complexes	1A Developed Recreation Sites
3.5	Plant and Animal Habitat Management (Unsuited)	4D Aspen Stand Management
5.11	Forest Vegetation Emphasis (Suited)	4D Aspen Stand Management
3.24	Riparian (Not in Regional Menu)	9A Riparian and Aquatic Ecosystem Management

## MANAGEMENT AREA PRESCRIPTIONS

New Management Area Prescriptions		Management Areas in the 1985 Plan
5.21	Water Yield Increase	9B Increase Water Yield, Vegetative Management
8.1	Water Impoundments	9E Water Impoundment – Twin Lakes, Tie Hack
2.1	Special Interest Area	10C Preacher Rock Bog

The following tables list the activities allowed under each management area prescription, including road construction, timber harvest, firewood cutting, grazing, motorized recreation, and developed recreation. The chart is not intended as a substitute for the actual standards and guidelines for the management area prescriptions. It should be used as a reference to show what activities are generally allowed in the different areas.

# MANAGEMENT AREA PRESCRIPTIONS

Table 2-2. Principle activities (biological and resource production) in management area prescriptions.

Management Area	Biological Elements					Resource Production					
	Vegetation Mgt. Projects	Wildlife Mgt. Projects	Fish Mgt. Projects	Pest Mgt. Projects	Prescribed Fire	Timber Harvest (ASQ)	Timber Harvest (Unscheduled)	Personal Use Products	Minerals Locatable	Minerals Oil/Gas	Livestock Grazing
1.11 Pristine Wilderness	N <sup>a</sup>	N	L <sup>b</sup>	L	N	N	N	N	N	NAA <sup>1</sup>	Y
1.13 Semi-Primitive Wilderness	N	N	L	L	N	N	N	N	N	NAA	Y
1.2 Recommended Wilderness	L	N	L	L	Y	N	N	N	Y	NSO <sup>2</sup>	Y
1.31 Backcountry Recreation, Nonmotorized Use	Y <sup>c</sup>	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	L	L	Y	NSO	Y
1.32 Backcountry Recreation, Nonmotorized Summer Use with Limited Winter Motorized Use	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	L	L	Y	NSO	Y
1.33 Backcountry Recreation with Limited Summer and Winter Motorized Use	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	L	L	Y	NSO	Y
1.5 National River System - Wild Rivers	Y	Y	L	Y	Y	N	L	L	Y	NSO	Y
2.1 Special Interest Areas	L	L	L	Y	Y	N	L	L	Y	NSO / CSU <sup>3</sup>	Y

<sup>1</sup> NAA – Not Administratively Available

<sup>a</sup> N – No

<sup>2</sup> NSO – No Surface Occupancy

<sup>b</sup> L – Low

<sup>3</sup> CSU – Controlled Surface Use

<sup>c</sup> Y – Yes

**MANAGEMENT AREA PRESCRIPTIONS**

Management Area	Biological Elements					Resource Production					
	Vegetation Mgt. Projects	Wildlife Mgt. Projects	Fish Mgt. Projects	Pest Mgt. Projects	Prescribed Fire	Timber Harvest (ASQ)	Timber Harvest (Unscheduled)	Personal Use Products	Minerals Locatable	Minerals Oil/Gas	Livestock Grazing
2.2 Research Natural Areas	L	L	L	L	L	N	N	N	Y	NSO	N <sup>4</sup>
3.1 Special Interest Area (Medicine Wheel)	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	N*	NSO	Y
3.24 Riparian and Aquatic Ecosystem Management (3)	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	NSO	Y
3.31 Backcountry Recreation, Year-round Motorized Use	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	CSU	Y
3.4 National River System – Scenic Rivers	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	NSO	Y
3.5 Plant and Wildlife Habitat Management	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	CSU	Y
4.2 Scenery	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	CSU	Y
4.3 Dispersed Recreation	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	CSU	Y
4.4 Recreation Rivers	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	CSU	Y
5.11 Forest Vegetation Emphasis	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	SLT <sup>5</sup>	Y
5.12 Rangeland Vegetation Emphasis	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	SLT	Y

<sup>4</sup> To be determined with establishment record.

\* Only include National Historic Landmark, not entire Historic Preservation Plan.

<sup>5</sup> SLT – Standard Lease Terms



**MANAGEMENT AREA PRESCRIPTIONS**

Management Area	Biological Elements					Resource Production					
	Vegetation Mgt. Projects	Wildlife Mgt. Projects	Fish Mgt. Projects	Pest Mgt. Projects	Prescribed Fire	Timber Harvest (ASQ)	Timber Harvest (Unscheduled)	Personal Use Products	Minerals Locatable	Minerals Oil/Gas	Livestock Grazing
5.13 Forest Products	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	SLT	Y
5.21 Increase Water Yield, Vegetative Management (3)	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	SLT	Y
5.4 Plant and Wildlife Habitat	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	SLT	Y
5.41 Deer and Elk Winter Range	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	L	Y	Y	TL <sup>6</sup>	Y
5.5 Dispersed Recreation and Forest Products	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	SLT	Y
8.1 Water Impoundment – Twin Lakes, Tie Hack(3)	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	N	SLT	Y
8.22 Ski-Based Resorts, Existing/Potential	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	N	NSO	Y

<sup>6</sup> TL – Timing Limitation

# MANAGEMENT AREA PRESCRIPTIONS

Table 2-3. Principle activities (recreation, transportation, lands) in management area prescriptions.

Management Areas		Recreation							Transportation & Lands			
		ROS (1) Class (Max)	Motorized Use (Summer)	Motorized Use (Winter)	Nonmotorized Use (Summer)	Nonmotorized Use (Winter)	Developed Facilities	Scenic Integrity Objective (SIO) (2)	Road Construction	Trail Construction	Admin. Construction	Special Uses (Facilities)
1.11	Pristine Wilderness	P <sup>7</sup>	N	N	Y	Y	N	VH	N	N	N	N
1.13	Semi-Primitive Wilderness	SPNM <sup>8</sup>	N	N	Y	Y	N	H	N	Y	N	N
1.2	Recommended Wilderness	P/SPNM	N	N	Y	Y	N	VH/H	N	Y	N	N
1.31	Backcountry Recreation, Nonmotorized Use	P/SPNM	N	N	Y	Y	L	H	N	Y	L	N
1.32	Backcountry Recreation, Nonmotorized Summer Use with Limited Winter Motorized Use	P/SPNM(4)	N	Y	Y	Y	L	H	N	Y	L	N
1.33	Backcountry Recreation with Limited Summer and Winter Motorized Use	P/SPNM/SPM	L	L	Y	Y	L	H	L	Y	L	N
1.5	National River System - Wild Rivers	P(4)	N	N	Y	Y	L	H	N	Y	N	N
2.1	Special Interest Areas	SPNM/NM <sup>9</sup> (6)	Y/N	Y/N	Y/N	Y/N	L	H	L	L	L	L
2.2	Research Natural Areas	P/SPNM	N	L	Y	Y	N	H	N	N	N	N

<sup>7</sup> P – Primitive

<sup>8</sup> SPNM – Semi-Primitive Nonmotorized

<sup>9</sup> NM – Nonmotorized

# MANAGEMENT AREA PRESCRIPTIONS

Management Areas		Recreation							Transportation & Lands			
		ROS (1) Class (Max)	Motorized Use (Summer)	Motorized Use (Winter)	Nonmotorized Use (Summer)	Nonmotorized Use (Winter)	Developed Facilities	Scenic Integrity Objective (SIO) (2)	Road Construction	Trail Construction	Admin. Construction	Special Uses (Facilities)
3.1	Special Interest Area (Medicine Wheel)	*	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	H	L	Y	Y	Y
3.24	Riparian and Aquatic Ecosystem Management (3)	SPNM to R <sup>10</sup>	Y	Y	Y	Y	L	M	Y	Y	N	Y
3.31	Backcountry Recreation, Year-round Motorized Use	SPM <sup>11</sup>	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	M	Y	Y	L	L
3.4	National River System – Scenic Rivers	SPM/SPNM	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	H/M	L	Y	Y	L
3.5	Plant and Wildlife Habitat Management	SPM/SPNM	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	M	L	L	L	L
4.2	Scenery	R/RN <sup>12</sup>	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	H/M	Y	Y	Y	Y
4.3	Dispersed Recreation	SPM/RN	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	M	Y	Y	L	Y
4.4	Recreation Rivers	RN	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	M	Y	Y	Y	Y
5.11	Forest Vegetation Emphasis	RN/RM <sup>13</sup>	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	M/LO	Y	Y	Y	Y
5.12	Rangeland Vegetation Emphasis	RN/RM	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	M/LO	Y	Y	Y	Y
5.13	Forest Products	RN/RM	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	M/LO	Y	Y	Y	Y

<sup>10</sup> R – Rural

<sup>11</sup> SPM – Semi-Primitive Motorized

<sup>12</sup> RN – Roaded Natural

<sup>13</sup> RM – Roaded Modified

**MANAGEMENT AREA PRESCRIPTIONS**

Management Areas		Recreation							Transportation & Lands			
		ROS (1) Class (Max)	Motorized Use (Summer)	Motorized Use (Winter)	Nonmotorized Use (Summer)	Nonmotorized Use (Winter)	Developed Facilities	Scenic Integrity Objective (SIO) (2)	Road Construction	Trail Construction	Admin. Construction	Special Uses (Facilities)
5.21	Increase Water Yield, Vegetative Management (3)	SPNM to R	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	LO	Y	Y	Y	Y
5.4	Plant and Wildlife Habitat	RN/RM	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	M/L	Y	Y	Y	Y
5.41	Deer and Elk Winter Range	SPM/RN(5)	L	N	Y	L	N	M	L	N	N	L
5.5	Dispersed Recreation and Forest Products	RN/RM	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	M/L	Y	Y	Y	Y
8.1	Water Impoundment – Twin Lakes, Tie Hack(3)	RM	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	LO	Y	Y	Y	Y
8.22	Ski-Based Resorts, Existing/Potential	R	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	LO	Y	Y	Y	Y

## Category I

In Category 1, ecological processes such as fire, insects, and disease are allowed to operate relatively free from the influence of humans. Vegetation composition and structure results from predominantly natural succession and natural disturbance processes, while non-native vegetation is rare. People who use Category 1 areas must be self-reliant and should expect little contact with others. Few, if any man-made facilities and structural improvements are present. With few exceptions, travel is nonmechanized. Typically, Category 1 areas are designated as wilderness, roadless, and backcountry lands. A small amount of motorized use may be required to restore desired conditions in core restoration areas.

### I.1.1 Pristine Wilderness

**Theme** – Pristine wilderness areas are managed to protect and perpetuate their near-pristine conditions. Natural processes and conditions are not measurably affected by human use. Opportunities for solitude and self-reliance predominate.

**Setting** –The areas are managed to provide opportunities for primitive recreation. Forage for wildlife and livestock may be available.

#### Desired Condition

- ◆ **Vegetation / Habitat:** Forested vegetation composition and structure is undisturbed by human intervention and predominantly mature to over-mature, unless regenerated by natural processes such as fire, insects, wind or disease. Vegetation is characterized by a variety of structural stages, a variety of tree sizes, and standing and downed dead trees. Recently disturbed areas will have openings with many dead, standing trees. Over time, these areas will regenerate and grow from seedlings to mature stands, and the standing dead trees will fall and become woody debris.
- ◆ **Fire:** Evidence of the effects of natural fire may be present and persist. Lightning-caused fires will be allowed to play, as nearly as possible, their natural ecological role in Wilderness. The risks and consequences of wildfire within wilderness or escaping from wilderness will be reduced to an acceptable level with consideration given to sustaining the wilderness characteristics that are dependent upon the role of wildfire in addition to the fire's proximity to high value areas on the Forest. Prescription, perimeter, and direct control fire management strategies are appropriate management responses to wildland fire. Not all strategies are appropriate nor will be implemented for all areas allocated to this management area.
- ◆ **Recreation:** Recreation opportunities are primarily those compatible with the most primitive end of the recreation opportunity spectrum (e.g., hiking). Users can expect a high degree of solitude with only very infrequent contact with other users when traveling cross-country. These areas offer the chance to travel cross-country in an environment where success or failure is directly dependent on ability, knowledge, and initiative. Roads or trails are not present.

- ♦ **Scenery:** The scenic characteristics of this area will appear to be exclusively the result of natural forces. Management activities will have no perceptible effect on scenery.
- ♦ **Timber:** Timber management does not occur in this area, either scheduled or unscheduled.
- ♦ **Livestock Grazing:** Domestic livestock will be present during the summer. Range improvements are historically evident.

## Standards and Guidelines

### Aquatic Resources

- Guideline 1. Manage lakes and streams to protect the habitat for indigenous<sup>14</sup> flora and fauna. [1998 Cloud Peak EA]

### Heritage Resources

- Standard 1. Manage historic structures, including eligible or listed National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) sites to be compatible with the wilderness setting. [1985 Plan]

### Infrastructure

- Standard 1. Do not construct or reconstruct trails. [1998 Cloud Peak EA]
- Guideline 1. Prohibit man-made structures and facilities. [1998 Cloud Peak EA]

### Mineral and Energy Resources

- Standard 1. Allow oil and gas leasing; however, prohibit ground-disturbing oil and gas activities. [NEW – From Nebraska Plan]

### Recreation

- Standards 1. Prohibit open fires in alpine, krummholz, and meadow areas and in riparian areas and lake basins where the dead and down or woody material is less than 95% of a naturally occurring amount in campsite areas. [1998 Cloud Peak EA]
2. Prohibit open fires when the occurrences of fire-rings exceed Frissell Class 1 site conditions on 10% or more of the known campsites within the management area. [1998 Cloud Peak EA]
3. Include nonguided visitors and outfitter/guide operations in calculations of level-of-use capacities. [1998 Cloud Peak EA]

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<sup>14</sup> As defined by the International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies MOU.

## MANAGEMENT AREA PRESCRIPTIONS

- Guidelines
1. Manage use to provide very infrequent contact with other groups or individuals. [1998 Cloud Peak EA]
  2. Limit the maximum trail encounters from Memorial Day to Labor Day and during the fall hunting season to an average of less than two other parties per day. [1998 Cloud Peak EA]
  3. Set trail and areawide use capacity at 0.001-0.002 PAOT (people at one time) per acre for open land, meadow, and alpine areas. Set trail and area-wide use capacity is set at 0.003 – 0.007 PAOT per acre for forested lands and shrub lands. Reduce the above use levels where unacceptable changes to the biophysical resource are likely to occur. [1998 Cloud Peak EA]
  4. Limit specially permitted parties to not more than one per 2,500 acres. [1998 Cloud Peak EA]
  5. Manage outfitter-guide operations in the same manner as other visitors. The activities of non-guided visitors and outfitter/guide should not be in conflict. [1998 Cloud Peak EA]
  6. Eliminate impacts resulting from camping use (e.g., hardened bare ground, litter, etc.). [1998 Cloud Peak EA]
  7. Manage for a recreation opportunity spectrum (ROS) class of Primitive. [New]

### Scenery

- Guideline
1. Manage for a scenery integrity objective of very high.

### Soils

- Guideline
1. Restore human-caused soil disturbances (past mining, grazing, trail construction and use, camping, etc.) to levels commensurate with the natural ecological processes for the area. [NEW – from Nebraska Plan]

### Special Uses

- Standard
1. Do not permit “assigned sites” in outfitter/guide base camps. [1998 Cloud Peak EA – revised]
  2. Do not allow caches of equipment or supplies under outfitter/guide permits. [1985 Plan]
- Guidelines
1. Permit only those uses authorized by wilderness legislation, which cannot be reasonably located on non-wilderness lands. [1998 Cloud Peak EA]

### 1.13 Semi-primitive Wilderness

**Theme** – Semi-primitive (or transition) wilderness areas are managed to protect natural conditions and provide access to primitive or pristine areas of the wilderness. Encounters with other users may be frequent due to concentrated use. Past human use of the area is evident.

**Setting** – The long-term intent of this prescription is to mitigate those features inconsistent with the *Wilderness Act*. These areas are commonly found adjacent to primary access points such as developed trailheads or heavily used recreation areas. They may also be found along major trails where the topography limits the ability to disperse use. These areas feature natural environmental conditions and offer a moderate degree of solitude, where the natural processes and conditions have not been significantly affected by human use. They are managed to protect natural conditions and provide access to other segments of the wilderness. Encounters with other users may be frequent due to concentrated use. Human use and activities within the area are evident.

#### Desired Condition

- ◆ **Vegetation / Habitat:** Forested vegetation composition and structure is undisturbed by human intervention and predominantly mature to over-mature, unless regenerated by natural processes such as fire, insects, wind or disease. Vegetation is characterized by a variety of structural stages, a variety of tree sizes and standing and downed dead trees. Recently disturbed areas have openings with many dead, standing trees. Over time these areas will regenerate and grow from seedlings to mature stands and the standing dead trees will fall and become woody debris.
- ◆ **Fire:** Evidence of the effects of natural fire may be present and persist. Lightning-caused fires will be allowed to play, as nearly as possible, their natural ecological role in wilderness. The risks and consequences of wildfire within wilderness or escaping from wilderness are reduced to an acceptable level with consideration given to sustaining the wilderness characteristics that are dependent upon the role of wildfire in addition to the fire's proximity to high value areas on the Forest. Prescription, perimeter, and direct control fire management strategies are appropriate management responses to wildland fire. Not all strategies are appropriate nor will be implemented for all areas allocated to this management area.
- ◆ **Recreation:** Recreation opportunities are primarily those which are compatible with the most primitive end of the recreation opportunity spectrum (e.g., hiking). Users can expect a moderately high degree of solitude with very infrequent contact with other users when traveling cross-country. Travelers on system trails are likely to encounter other recreationists. These areas offer the chance to travel cross-country in an environment where success or failure is directly dependant on ability, knowledge, and initiative.
- ◆ **Scenery:** The scenic characteristics of this area are primarily a result of natural forces. Management activities have a limited effect on scenery.



## MANAGEMENT AREA PRESCRIPTIONS

- ◆ **Timber:** Timber management, either scheduled or unscheduled, does not occur in this area.
- ◆ **Livestock Grazing:** Domestic livestock are present during the summer. Range improvements are historically evident.

### Standards and Guidelines

#### Aquatic Resources

- Guideline 1. Manage lakes and streams to protect the habitat for indigenous<sup>15</sup> flora and fauna. [1998 Cloud Peak EA]

#### Heritage Resources

- Standard 1. Manage historic structures, including eligible or listed National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) sites to be compatible with the Wilderness setting. [1985 Plan]

#### Infrastructure

- Standards
1. Maintain trails in accordance with standards in the Trail Handbook. Close or sign system trails when not maintained to the safe standard of the specified use. [1998 Cloud Peak EA]
  2. Construct or reconstruct trails only when needed to meet objectives of the wilderness transportation system. Follow standards specified in FSH 2309.18. [1998 Cloud Peak EA]
  3. Prohibit construction of new administrative facilities or structures. If a substantial portion of the existing administrative facility and/or structure is destroyed, do not replace the facility/structure. [1998 Cloud Peak EA]
  4. Use signs of unstained wood with routed letters and mounted on unstained posts. Follow standards cited in FSM 2324.33f. [1998 Cloud Peak EA]
- Guidelines
1. Construct bridges to only the standard necessary to accommodate the specified class of user. Construct bridges only where no safe opportunity exists to cross a stream or gorge during periods of normal stream flow. A safety hazard is a physical condition of a trail that may cause injury, is unusual or unexpected, and not readily identifiable by the trail user. It is not a condition that is easily identifiable and normally encountered for the type or location of the trail involved. The following examples illustrated this distinction. [1998 Cloud Peak EA]

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<sup>15</sup> As defined by the International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies MOU.

- a. Hazard – a rotten bridge decking or handrail.  
No hazard – a stream crossing where no bridge is provided and where the user would expect this based on the type and location of the trail.
  - b. Hazard – a stable-appearing loose rock in a constructed treadway where all other rocks are stable.  
No hazard – A trail treadway made up of rocks in a near-natural position, many of which are loose.
  - c. No hazard – an intermittent bog hole that will dry up by early summer or within a few days following a rainstorm.
  - d. Hazard – a section of trail treadway supported by rotten cribbing.  
No hazard – a section of trail where the treadway is obviously slippery.
  - e. Hazard – a marked ford with holes deeper than the normal channel.  
No hazard – a deep ford with a consistent streambed.
- 2. Schedule trail maintenance in accordance with meaningful measures and infrastructure guidelines. [1998 Cloud Peak EA]
  - 3. Use corduroy and/or puncheon treads across bogs where no safe and feasible by pass opportunity exists. [1998 Cloud Peak EA]
  - 4. Provide signs at trail terminals and trail junctions only. Include only trail identification and identification of terminal points. [1998 Cloud Peak EA]

### **Mineral and Energy Resources**

- |          |  |
|----------|--|
| Standard | 1. Allow oil and gas leasing; however, prohibit ground-distributing oil and gas activities. [NEW – From Nebraska Plan] |
|----------|--|

### **Recreation**

- |           |  |
|-----------|--|
| Standards | 1. Prohibit open fires in alpine, krummholz, and meadow areas and in any lake basin where dead and down woody material is less than 90 percent of the naturally occurring amount in the campsite areas. [1998 Cloud Peak EA] |
|           | 2. Include outfitter/guide operations in calculations of level of use capacities. [1998 Cloud Peak EA]   |

## MANAGEMENT AREA PRESCRIPTIONS

- Guidelines
1. In key lake basins restrict bare ground due to human use to no more than three percent of the lake basin acres suitable for camping or other human impacts such as horse restraint areas with no human-caused bare ground campsites larger than 500 square feet. Key areas which historically receive the heaviest visitor use are: West Tensleep Corridor, Lost Twin Lakes, Lake Solitude, Cliff Lakes loop area, Stull/Coney Lakes, Lake Geneva, Highland Lake group, Seven Brothers Lakes area, and Sherd Lake. [1998 Cloud Peak EA]
  2. Concentrate use on already impacted legal campsites. Do not close the legal heavily used sites. [1998 Cloud Peak EA]
  3. Locate campsites at least 300 feet apart. [1998 Cloud Peak EA]
  4. Manage summer use within area-wide capacities: [1998 Cloud Peak EA]

Vegetation Type	Area-Wide Capacity (PAOT/ 1000 Acres)
Alpine, krummholz	4
Rock, mountain grass	8
Forest and shrub lands, ponderosa pine, Douglas fir, riparian areas, white pine	50
Spruce/fir, lodgepole pine, aspen	80

5. Limit trail encounters from Memorial Day to Labor Day and during hunting season to an average of less than 10 other parties per day. [1998 Cloud Peak EA]
6. Limit the maximum trail capacity to 2-3 PAOT/mile in open country and 9-11 PAOT/mile in forested terrain. [1998 Cloud Peak EA]
7. Manage to meet the following guidelines for the maximum number of campsites occupied at one time: [1998 Cloud Peak EA]

Setting Type	Maximum Sites Occupied at One Time
Lakes less than five acres in size	2
Lakes from five to twenty-five acres in size	3
Lakes larger than 25 acres in size	4
Open areas	3 sites per square mile
Forested areas	6 sites per square mile

8. Manage for a recreation opportunity spectrum (ROS) of semi-primitive nonmotorized.
9. Manage outfitter-guide operations in the same manner as other visitors. The activities of non-guided visitors and outfitter/guide should not be in conflict. [1998 Cloud Peak EA]

**Scenery**

- Guideline 1. Manage for a scenic integrity objective of high

**Soils**

- Guideline 1. Restore human-caused soil disturbances caused by human use (past mining, grazing, trail construction and use, camping, etc.) to levels commensurate with the natural ecological processes for the area. [NEW – From Nebraska Plan]

**Special Uses**

- Standards 1. Allow camps for permittees only in sites specified in special-use permits. [1985 Plan]
2. Restrict outfitter/guide assigned sites to the current number permitted. [1998 Cloud Peak EA]
3. Do not allow caches of equipment or supplies under outfitter/guide permits. [1998 Cloud Peak EA]
- Guidelines 1. Issue permits for parties larger than the established limit when their presence can be adequately screened from the sights and sounds of other parties in the area. [1998 Cloud Peak EA]
2. Require outfitters/guides to be certified in ‘leave no trace’ techniques. [1998 Cloud Peak EA]

## 1.2 Recommended Wilderness

**Theme** – Areas which the Forest Service has recommended or will recommend to Congress for inclusion in the National Wilderness System are managed to protect wilderness characteristics until Congressional action is taken. Non-conforming activities may be limited or restricted.

**Setting** – These are areas that the Forest Service has found suitable for inclusion in the National Wilderness System. These areas meet the wilderness characteristic criteria—they are on the roadless inventory and are capable, available, and suitable for wilderness designation—and will be recommended for inclusion into the National Wilderness Preservation System. There is an identified need for the additional wilderness area designation.

These areas will be managed to protect their wilderness characteristics and are not available for any use or activity that may reduce the area's wilderness potential. Currently permitted activities may continue, pending designation, if the activities do not compromise wilderness values. Uses, levels of use, and management actions may vary among the areas recommended for wilderness designation.

### Desired Condition

- ◆ **Vegetation / Habitat:** Forested vegetation composition and structure are undisturbed by human intervention and predominantly mature to over-mature, unless regenerated by natural processes such as fire, insects, wind or disease. Vegetation is characterized by a variety of structural stages, a variety of tree sizes and standing and downed dead trees. Recently disturbed areas have openings with many dead, standing trees. Over time, these areas will regenerate and grow from seedlings to mature stands, and the standing dead trees will fall and become woody debris.
- ◆ **Fire:** Prescribed fire is allowed. The effects of wildfire may be evident and persist. The risks and consequences of wildfire within this area will be reduced to an acceptable level with consideration given to the resource benefits and wilderness characteristics derived from fire on the landscape as well as proximity to high value areas on the Forest. Prescription, perimeter, and direct control fire management strategies are appropriate management responses to wildland fire. Not all strategies are appropriate nor will be implemented for all areas allocated to this management area.
- ◆ **Recreation:** Opportunities for primitive recreation, such as hiking, horseback riding or cross-country skiing, are provided, with moderate to high degrees of solitude available. Users can expect a moderately high degree of solitude with only very infrequent contact with other users when traveling cross-country. Dispersed campsites may be evident. This area provides a variety of nonmotorized recreational opportunities dependent upon historic uses and use patterns. Any existing motorized uses, except for emergency purposes, will be discontinued.
- ◆ **Scenery:** The scenic characteristics of this area are primarily a result of natural forces. Management activities have a limited effect on scenery.
- ◆ **Timber:** Timber harvest, either scheduled or unscheduled, does not occur in this area.

- ♦ **Livestock Grazing:** Domestic livestock are present during the summer. Associated improvements, such as salting areas, fences and water developments may be present.

## Standards and Guidelines

### Aquatic Resources

- Guideline 1. Manage lakes and streams to protect the habitat for indigenous<sup>16</sup> flora and fauna. [1998 Cloud Peak EA]

### Heritage Resources

- Standard 1. Manage historic structures, including eligible or listed National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) sites to be compatible with the Wilderness setting. [1998 Cloud Peak EA]

### Infrastructure

- Standard 1. Motorized travel is prohibited except when authorized by special permit or for administrative or emergency use. [1998 Cloud Peak EA]
- Guidelines 1. Minimize construction of facilities and structures. [1998 Cloud Peak EA]
2. Install directional trail signs if necessary. New or replacement signs will be limited to directional signs of unstained wood with routed letters. [1998 Cloud Peak EA]

### Mineral and Energy Resources

- Standard 1. Prohibit mineral material removal. [NEW – From Nebraska Plan]
2. Allow oil and gas leasing; however, prohibit ground-disturbing oil and gas activities. [NEW – From Nebraska Plan]

### Recreation

- Standard 1. Allow recreation uses and activities only if they do not degrade the wilderness characteristics of the area. [NEW]
- Guideline 1. Manage for an adopted ROS class of primitive or semi-primitive nonmotorized. [NEW]

### Scenery

- Guideline 1. Manage for a scenic integrity objective of high or very high.

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<sup>16</sup> As defined by the International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies MOU.

## MANAGEMENT AREA PRESCRIPTIONS

### Special Uses

- |           |    |  |
|-----------|----|--|
| Standard  | 1. | Prohibit new utility corridors. [1998 Cloud Peak EA]   |
|           | 2. | Prohibit new special-use facilities. [1998 Cloud Peak EA]  |
|           | 3. | Manage surface occupancy activities authorized prior to Wilderness designation to reduce impact on Wilderness values consistent with the intent of the occupancy authorization. [1998 Cloud Peak EA] |
|           | 4. | Permit only those uses authorized by Wilderness legislation, which cannot be reasonably met on non-Wilderness land. [1998 Cloud Peak EA]   |
| Guideline | 1. | Allow compatible special uses. [1998 Cloud Peak EA]  |

### 1.31 Backcountry Recreation, Nonmotorized Use

**Theme** - Backcountry, nonmotorized recreation areas are managed to provide recreation opportunities in a natural-appearing landscape.

**Setting** - These areas are unroaded or have little evidence of past road construction. They have a natural appearance with little or no sign of human disturbance. They are important for providing nonmotorized recreation near the primitive end of the recreation opportunity spectrum.

#### Desired Condition

- ◆ **Vegetation / Habitat:** Forested vegetation composition and structure are primarily undisturbed by human intervention and predominantly mature to over-mature, unless regenerated by natural processes such as fire, insects, wind, or disease. Vegetation is characterized by a variety of structural stages, a variety of tree sizes and standing and downed dead trees. Recently disturbed areas have openings with many dead, standing trees. Over time these areas will regenerate and grow from seedlings to mature stands and the standing dead trees will fall and become woody debris.
- ◆ **Fire:** The effects of prescribed and natural fire may be evident and persist, some of them large in size. Prescription, perimeter, and direct control fire management strategies are appropriate management responses to wildland fire. Not all strategies are appropriate nor will be implemented for all areas allocated to this management area.
- ◆ **Recreation:** Opportunities for primitive nonmotorized recreation, such as hiking, horseback riding or cross-country skiing, are provided in a natural or natural-appearing setting with moderate to high degrees of solitude available. Dispersed campsites may be evident. Facilities, if present, are rustic and exist primarily for site protection. Improvements to enhance recreation use, such as signing, may be present within the area but will be rustic in nature.
- ◆ **Scenery:** The landscape has a predominantly natural appearance and be relatively undisturbed by human activity.
- ◆ **Timber:** Though not common in these areas, vegetation management is an acceptable option near high value areas such as existing trailheads, cow camps, summer homes, or lands of other ownership. These lands are not part of the suited timber base.
- ◆ **Livestock Grazing:** Domestic livestock are present during the summer. Associated improvements, such as salting areas, fences and water developments may be present.



## MANAGEMENT AREA PRESCRIPTIONS

### Standards and Guidelines

#### Infrastructure

- Standard 1. Prohibit construction of permanent roads in areas with an adopted ROS class of primitive. Temporary roads are allowed provided they can be decommissioned<sup>17</sup> [New]
2. Prohibit motorized travel except when authorized by special use permit or for administrative or emergency purposes. [Desk Guide]
- Guidelines 1. Except for resource protection purposes, discourage construction of roads, facilities and structures that are not visually subordinate to the landscape character. [Desk Guide - modified]

#### Mineral and Energy Resources

- Standards 1. Allow new oil and gas leasing; however, no ground-disturbing oil and gas activities are permitted. [NEW – From Nebraska Plan]
2. Prohibit mineral material removal. [NEW – From Nebraska Plan]
3. Honor all valid existing oil and gas leases. [NEW – From Nebraska Plan]
- Guideline 1. Use portable techniques for off-road geophysical surveys. [NEW – From Nebraska Plan]

#### Recreation

- Standard 1. Limit recreation development to trails, sanitation, horse holding and handling facilities, directional and resource signing, and primitive shelters. [Desk Guide]
- Guideline 1. Manage for an adopted ROS class of primitive or semi-primitive nonmotorized [New]

#### Scenery

- Guideline 1. Manage for a scenic integrity objective of high.

#### Silvicultural

- Guideline 1. Use vegetation treatments near high value areas such as existing trail heads, cow camps, or lands of other ownership. [1985 Plan – Modified]

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<sup>17</sup> **Decommission** – reclaim and/or restore the land occupied by a road using a variety of different techniques that include, but are not limited to, restoring contours for a portion or the entire length of road, physical blockage of the road to prevent vehicular traffic, ripping, and seeding.

**Special Uses**

- |           |    |   |
|-----------|----|---|
| Standards | 1. | Prohibit new utility corridors. [1985 Plan & Desk Guide]  |
|           | 2. | Prohibit new special-use facilities. [1985 Plan & Desk Guide]   |
| Guideline | 1. | Discourage competitive contest and group events. Such events may be permitted on a case-by-case basis. [1985 Plan & Desk Guide] |

### **1.32 Backcountry Recreation, Nonmotorized Summer Use with Limited Winter Motorized Use**

**Theme** – Areas are managed to provide backcountry recreation opportunities in a natural-appearing landscape. Summer use is nonmotorized. Over-snow vehicles are allowed during the snow season.

**Setting** – These areas are unroaded or have little evidence of past road construction. They have a natural appearance with little or no sign of human disturbance. They are important for providing nonmotorized recreation; however there is over-snow motorized travel in the winter.

#### **Desired Condition**

- ◆ **Vegetation / Habitat:** Forested vegetation composition and structure is primarily undisturbed by human intervention and predominantly mature to over-mature, unless regenerated by natural processes such as fire, insects, wind or disease. Vegetation is characterized by a variety of structural stages, a variety of tree sizes and standing and downed dead trees. Recently disturbed areas have openings with many dead, standing trees. Over time, these areas will regenerate and grow from seedlings to mature stands, and the standing dead trees will fall and become woody debris.
- ◆ **Fire:** The effects of prescribed and natural fire may be evident and persist, some of them large in size. Prescription, perimeter, and direct control fire management strategies are appropriate management responses to wildland fire. Not all strategies are appropriate nor will be implemented for all areas allocated to this management area.
- ◆ **Summer recreation:** Opportunities for primitive nonmotorized recreation, such as hiking, mountain biking and horseback riding, are provided in a natural or natural-appearing setting with moderate to high degrees of solitude available. Dispersed campsites may be evident. Facilities, if present, are rustic and exist primarily for site protection. Improvements to enhance recreation use, such as signing, may be present within the area but will be rustic in nature.
- ◆ **Winter recreation:** A variety of nonmotorized, over-snow recreation opportunities are provided (e.g., cross-country skiing and snowshoeing). In addition, some areas are open to snowmobiles. Off system snowmobile routes, there will be a high probability of experiencing solitude, closeness to nature, and tranquility. Near system snowmobile routes, the sights and sounds of snowmobile travel may be evident. Facilities are rustic and exist primarily for site protection. Improvements to enhance recreation use, such as signing, may be present within the area but will be rustic in nature.
- ◆ **Scenery:** The landscape will have a predominantly natural appearance and be relatively undisturbed by human activity.
- ◆ **Timber:** Though not common in these areas, vegetation management is an acceptable option near high value areas such as existing trailheads, cow camps, or lands of other ownership. These lands are not part of the suited timber base.

- ♦ **Livestock Grazing:** Domestic livestock are present during the summer. Associated improvements, such as salting areas, fences and water developments may be present.

## Standards and Guidelines

### Infrastructure

- |           |   |
|-----------|---|
| Standards | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Prohibit construction of permanent roads in areas with an adopted ROS class of primitive. Temporary roads are allowed provided they can be decommissioned. [New]</li> <li>2. Prohibit motorized travel except when authorized by special use permit or for administrative or emergency purposes. [Desk Guide]</li> <li>3. Allow over-snow vehicles during the snow season. [New]</li> </ol> |
| Guideline | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Except for resource protection purposes, discourage construction of roads, facilities and structures that are not visually subordinate to the landscape character. [Desk Guide – modified]</li> </ol>   |

### Mineral and Energy Resources

- |           |  |
|-----------|--|
| Standards | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Allow new oil and gas leasing; however, no ground-disturbing oil and gas activities are permitted. [NEW – From Nebraska Plan]</li> <li>2. Prohibit mineral material removal. [NEW – From Nebraska Plan]</li> <li>3. Honor all valid existing oil and gas leases. [NEW – From Nebraska Plan]</li> </ol> |
| Guideline | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Require use of portable techniques if access for geophysical surveys is not feasible by off-road travel. [NEW – From Nebraska Plan]</li> </ol>   |

### Recreation

- |            |   |
|------------|---|
| Guidelines | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Manage for an adopted ROS class of primitive or semi-primitive nonmotorized. During the winter, manage for an adopted ROS class of semi-primitive motorized. [New]</li> <li>2. Limit recreation development to trails, sanitation, horse holding and handling facilities, directional and resource signing, and primitive shelters. [Desk Guide]</li> </ol> |
|------------|---|

### Scenery

- |           |   |
|-----------|---|
| Guideline | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Manage for a scenic integrity objective of high.</li> </ol> |
|-----------|---|

### Silviculture

- |           |   |
|-----------|---|
| Guideline | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Use vegetation treatments near high value areas such as existing trail heads, cow camps, or lands of other ownership. [1985 Plan – Modified]</li> </ol> |
|-----------|---|

## MANAGEMENT AREA PRESCRIPTIONS

### Special Uses

- |           |    |  |
|-----------|----|--|
| Standard  | 1. | Prohibit new utility corridors. [1985 Plan & Desk Guide]   |
|           | 2. | Prohibit new special-use facilities. [1985 Plan & Desk Guide]  |
| Guideline | 1. | Discourage competitive contest and group events. Such events may be permitted on a case-by-case basis. [1985 Plan – Modified & Desk Guide] |

### 1.33 Backcountry Recreation with Limited Summer and Winter Motorized Use

**Theme** – Areas are managed to provide backcountry recreation opportunities in a natural-appearing landscape. Summer use may include motorized trail travel. Winter use may be motorized.

**Setting** – These areas are unroaded or have little evidence of past road construction. They have a natural appearance with little or no sign of human disturbance. In the summer, these areas provide nonmotorized recreation opportunities along with motorized recreation opportunities on existing primitive trails. In the winter, they provide motorized recreation opportunities.

#### Desired Condition

- ◆ **Vegetation / Habitat:** Forested vegetation composition and structure is primarily undisturbed by human intervention and predominantly mature to over-mature, unless regenerated by natural processes such as fire, insects, wind or disease. Vegetation is characterized by a variety of structural stages, a variety of tree sizes and standing and downed dead trees. Recently disturbed areas have openings with many dead, standing trees. Over time, these areas will regenerate and grow from seedlings to mature stands, and the standing dead trees will fall and become woody debris.
- ◆ **Fire:** The effects of prescribed and natural fire may be evident and persist, some of them large in size. Prescription, perimeter, and direct control fire management strategies are appropriate management responses to wildland fire. Not all strategies are appropriate nor will be implemented for all areas allocated to this management area.
- ◆ **Summer recreation:** A variety of nonmotorized recreation opportunities, such as hiking, mountain biking and horseback riding, are provided in a natural or natural-appearing setting with moderate to high degrees of solitude available. Semi-primitive motorized recreation opportunities are provided where existing system trails are found. Dispersed campsites may be evident. If present, facilities are rustic and exist primarily for site protection. Improvements to enhance recreation use, such as signing, may be present within the area but will be rustic in nature.
- ◆ **Winter recreation:** A variety of nonmotorized, over-snow recreation opportunities are provided such as snowshoeing and backcountry skiing. In addition, some areas may be open to snowmobiles. Off system snowmobile routes, there will be a high probability of experiencing solitude, closeness to nature and tranquility. Near system snowmobile routes, the sights and sounds of snowmobile travel may be evident. Facilities are rustic and exist primarily for site protection. Improvements to enhance recreation use, such as signing, may be present within the area but will be rustic in nature.
- ◆ **Scenery:** The landscape will have a predominantly natural appearance and be relatively undisturbed by human activity.

## MANAGEMENT AREA PRESCRIPTIONS

- ♦ **Timber:** Though not common in these areas, vegetation management is an acceptable option near high value areas such as existing trailheads, cow camps, or lands of other ownership. These lands are not part of the suited timber base.
- ♦ **Livestock Grazing:** Domestic livestock are present during the summer. Associated improvements, such as salting areas, fences and water developments may be present.

### Standards and Guidelines

#### Infrastructure

- |           |    |   |
|-----------|----|---|
| Standard  | 1. | Prohibit road construction in areas with an adopted ROS class of primitive. Temporary roads are allowed provided they can be decommissioned. [New]  |
| Guideline | 1. | Except for resource protection purposes, discourage construction of roads, facilities, and structures that are not visually subordinate to the landscape character. [Desk Guide – modified] |

#### Mineral and Energy Resources

- |           |    |   |
|-----------|----|---|
| Standards | 1. | Allow new oil and gas leasing; however, no ground-disturbing oil and gas activities are permitted. [New – From Nebraska Plan] |
|           | 2. | Prohibit mineral material removal. [New – From Nebraska Plan]   |
|           | 3. | Honor all valid existing oil and gas leases. [New – From Nebraska Plan]   |

#### Recreation

- |            |    |  |
|------------|----|--|
| Standard   | 1. | Limit recreation development to trails, sanitation, horse holding and handling facilities, directional and resource signing, and primitive shelters. [Desk Guide]  |
| Guidelines | 1. | In the summer, manage for an the adopted ROS class of primitive or semi-primitive nonmotorized except on motorized system trails shown on the travel map which will have a semi-primitive motorized setting. During the winter, manage for an adopted ROS class of semi-primitive motorized. [New] |
|            | 2. | Manage for no net gain or loss of motorized system trail routes until site specific management decisions have been made. [New]   |

#### Scenery

- |           |    |  |
|-----------|----|--|
| Guideline | 1. | Manage for a scenic integrity objective of high. |
|-----------|----|--|

#### Silviculture

- |           |    |  |
|-----------|----|--|
| Guideline | 1. | Use vegetation treatments near high value areas such as existing trail heads, cow camps, or lands of other ownership. [1985 Plan – Modified] |
|-----------|----|--|

**Special Uses**

- |           |    |   |
|-----------|----|---|
| Standards | 1. | Prohibit new utility corridors. [1985 Plan & Desk Guide]  |
|           | 2. | Prohibit new special-use facilities. [1985 Plan & Desk Guide]   |
| Guideline | 1. | Discourage competitive contest and group events; however, they may be permitted on a case-by-case basis. [1985 Plan & Desk Guide] |



## 1.5 National River System - Wild Rivers

**Theme** – Wild rivers and adjacent areas are managed to protect and perpetuate designated and eligible river segments.

**Setting** –Wild rivers, or segments of rivers, with their immediate environments are managed to maintain, enhance and protect the free-flowing character and outstandingly remarkable features, including scenic, recreational, geologic, wildlife, or fisheries values.

Wild river areas are characterized as having watersheds or shorelines that are essentially primitive. The actual width of the area may vary in order to protect the outstanding values but is always at least ¼-mile on either side of the stream.

### Desired Condition

- ◆ **Vegetation / Habitat:** Natural processes such as fire, insects, wind and disease are allowed to influence vegetative composition and structure as long as they enhance or are compatible with wild river values. A higher proportion of old structural stages may be found here than in managed forest areas. Fish habitat improvement projects are uncommon, primarily due to the lack of access to the management area and the current pristine condition of the habitats and are limited to small in-stream structures designed to mimic naturally occurring features.
- ◆ **Fire:** Prescribed fire is an acceptable tool. Prescription, perimeter, and direct control fire management strategies are appropriate management responses to wildland fire. Not all strategies are appropriate nor will be implemented for all areas allocated to this management area. The effects of fire, insects, and disease may be visible, evident, and persistent.
- ◆ **Recreation:** Existing motorized access routes are available, however there is no motorized travel within the corridor except over-snow travel, and no new roads constructed. A wide variety of nonmotorized recreation opportunities would be available, such as hiking, horseback riding, mountain biking and fishing. Existing cabins, trails, and range improvements are maintained.
- ◆ **Scenery:** Scenery is largely unaltered in appearance by management. There may be some evidence of past human use, such as primitive trails, hardened campsites and historic structures.
- ◆ **Timber:** Any forest vegetation treatments, when necessary, do not adversely impact the outstandingly remarkable characteristics for which the area is designated. These lands are not part of the suited timber base. There will be little evidence of stumps, landings and other signs of logging activities.
- ◆ **Livestock Grazing:** Livestock grazing may be present and will be managed with the goal of maintaining the outstandingly remarkable characteristics for which the area is designated.

## Standards and Guidelines

### Aquatic Resources

- Standard
1. Do not authorize new water development projects including hydroelectric and dams or diversions. [Desk Guide]
  2. To the extent the Forest Service is authorized under law to control stream impoundments and diversions, do not modify the free-flowing characteristics of the study river with new structures that were not part of conditions when eligibility was determined. [Desk Guide]

### Infrastructure

- Standards
1. Do not allow new road or facility construction. [Desk Guide]
  2. Do not permit roads or trails for motorized use within ¼-mile of the riverbank. [Desk Guide]
  3. Construct trail bridges only where no safe opportunity exists to cross-streams or gorges on trail routes. Do not place bridge piers in the waterway. [Desk Guide]
- Guidelines
1. Retain existing structures that are compatible with the undeveloped nature and naturalness of the area. [Desk Guide]
  2. Install minimal directional, regulatory, and informative signs to foster safe use, identify requirements for use of the area, and to provide route information. [Desk Guide]
  3. Allow trails and trail bridges for nonmotorized use, as long as they are in keeping with the undeveloped nature of the area. [Desk Guide]

### Livestock Grazing

- Guideline
1. Manage the timing, duration, and intensity of grazing, trailing, and livestock impacts in riparian corridors to retain the outstandingly remarkable values of the area. [modified from 1985 Plan & Desk Guide]

### Mineral and Energy Resources

- Standards
1. Designate these areas as administratively unavailable for new oil and gas leasing. [Desk Guide]
  2. Prohibit mineral material removal. [Desk Guide]

## MANAGEMENT AREA PRESCRIPTIONS

### National River System

- Standard 1. Do not allow management actions, proposed new uses, or new facilities on National Forest System lands if they alter the wild characteristics of the land and physical resources or affect the classification of the river. [1985 Plan – Modified & Desk Guide]
- Guideline 1. Allow minor existing structures if compatible with the values of the river corridor. Do not allow new structures except in rare instances for management objectives such as fisheries enhancement programs or range improvements. [New]

### Recreation

- Standards 1. Allow all existing facilities, management actions, and uses to continue until a decision is made on inclusion into the National Wild and Scenic River System, provided they do not alter the wild and scenic characteristics. [Desk Guide]
2. Do not allow management actions, proposed new uses, or new facilities if they could be the basis for not recommending an area for designation. [1985 Plan – Modified & Desk Guide]
3. Do not add any designated snowmobile routes. [New]
- Guidelines 1. Provide only simple facilities such as fireplaces or shelters or facilities needed for resource protection. [1985 Plan & Desk Guide]
2. Consider designating campsites when there are limited opportunities. [New]
3. Manage for an adopted ROS class of primitive. During the winter, manage for an adopted ROS class of semi-primitive motorized. [New]

### Scenery

- Guideline 1. Manage for a scenic integrity objective of high in the foreground and the middleground of the viewshed from the wild river.

### Silviculture

- Guideline 1. Conduct forested vegetation treatments to maintain the outstandingly remarkable characteristics for which the area is designated. [New]

**Special Uses**

- |           |    |   |
|-----------|----|---|
| Standard  | 1. | Do not approve special uses that could preclude the area from designation. [1985 Plan – Modified & Desk Guide]                                    |
| Guideline | 1. | Discourage new utility lines. Where no other reasonable alternative is available, restrict new facilities to existing rights-of-way. [Desk Guide] |

## Category 2

These areas provide for conservation of representative, or particularly rare and narrowly distributed, ecological settings or components. They help ensure conservation of ecosystems or ecosystem components that may provide important functions ensuring the overall sustainability of larger landscapes. Human influences on the ecological processes are limited to the degree possible but are sometimes evident. Types of human use vary, but generally are not intensive. Travel is generally nonmotorized. Some of these areas help provide an important role under an adaptive management philosophy by providing “natural” reference areas that are intensively managed for a particular objective. These areas are often formally designated. Research Natural Areas and heritage and geologic resources are typically included in Category 2.

### 2.1 Special Interest Areas

**Theme** – Special Interest Areas (SIAs) are managed to protect or enhance unusual characteristics. Management emphasis is on protecting or enhancing, and where appropriate, developing and interpreting areas of unusual characteristics for public education and recreation.

**Setting** – These areas are managed to maintain their special interest values. Special Interest Areas (SIAs) are designated for historical values.

#### Desired Condition

- ◆ **Vegetation / Habitat:** Vegetative structure is determined by individual area management plans. In general, vegetation, terrestrial and aquatic habitat, soil productivity, and water quality will appear natural (relatively pristine or pre-settlement).
- ◆ **Fire:** Prescribed fire is an acceptable tool as described in the management area plan. Prescription, perimeter, and direct control fire management strategies are appropriate management responses to wildland fire. Not all strategies are appropriate nor will be implemented for all areas allocated to this management area. Fire management and suppression activities will be done in a way which ensures protection of the values for which the area was proposed or designated.
- ◆ **Recreation:** Recreation activities which are not in conflict with the values for which the areas was identified are allowed. This would tend towards lower impact recreation such as hiking, horseback or other nonmotorized means; however, motorized travel may be permitted, as appropriate, on a site-specific basis.
- ◆ **Scenery:** The scenery of the area appears unaltered or as described in the heritage resource management plan.
- ◆ **Timber:** These lands are not part of the suited timber base. Vegetative manipulation may be used to maintain or restore natural conditions, to protect threatened, endangered, and sensitive species, or to protect other values for which the Special Interest Area was proposed or designated.

- ♦ **Livestock Grazing:** Livestock may be present in these areas, although grazing is managed so as to be compatible with the values for which the area was proposed or identified.

## Standards and Guidelines

### Biological Diversity

- Standard 1. Protect, manage, and restore, where needed, the biological diversity, geological, historical, paleontological, or other values for which the SIA was identified.

### Heritage Resources

- Guideline 1. Do not restore or enhance heritage resources except for resource protection.

### Infrastructure

- Standards 1. Construct new roads or trails only when consistent with SIA values.
2. Prohibit motorized and mechanized travel where necessary to protect the values for which the individual area was proposed or established.

### Livestock Grazing

- Guidelines 1. Manage the timing, duration, and intensity of grazing, trailing, and livestock to minimize conflicts with other uses, and to retain the special interest values of the area. Studies may be required to determine appropriate management. [Modified from Desk Guide]
2. Manage vegetation to allow for successional progress toward meeting the objectives established for the area. [Team; as described in desired condition above]

### Mineral and Energy Resources

- Standards 1. When withdrawal is necessary to protect the values for which the area was designated, request withdrawal from mineral entry in conformance with Section 204 of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (PL 94-576).
2. Do not permit ground-disturbing activities unless allowed in the specific direction for the individual Special Interest Area. Honor existing valid rights.
3. Prohibit mineral material removal.

## **MANAGEMENT AREA PRESCRIPTIONS**

### **Recreation**

- Guidelines
1. Allow recreation use emphasizing interpretation, education, and inspiration when it does not threaten the values for which the SIA was identified.
  2. Manage for an adopted ROS class of semi-primitive motorized (Buck Creek Vees) or nonmotorized (Elephant's Foot).

### **Scenery**

- Guideline
1. Manage for a scenic integrity objectives (SIO) of high.
  2. Where the viewshed is a contributing element of the special interest area, apply a scenic integrity objective of "high" to the viewshed area.

### **Special Uses**

- Guideline
1. Authorize scientific activities or other activities that are compatible with the SIA values through special use permits containing terms that protect or enhance the area.

## 2.2 Research Natural Areas

**Theme** – Research Natural Areas (RNAs) form a long-term network of ecological reserves designated for non-manipulative research and education and the maintenance of biological diversity. This prescription is applicable to both designated RNAs and those that are proposed for designation.

**Setting** – Research Natural Areas were selected for the following reasons:

- ◆ To serve as reference areas for evaluating the range of natural variability and the impacts of management in similar environments.
- ◆ To protect and maintain representative or key elements of biological diversity at the genetic, species, population, community, or ecosystem levels.
- ◆ To serve as areas for the study of ecosystems and ecological processes including succession.
- ◆ To serve as baseline areas for measuring ecological change.

The sights and sounds of people or management activities within the area are infrequent, though they may be common in adjacent areas. There may be some evidence of research or study activities. Rare plants, plant communities, and animals may be present.

### Desired Condition

- ◆ **Vegetation / Habitat:** Forest and non-forest vegetation, and the associated processes (succession, insects/disease, fire, etc.) are in a natural condition, within the historic range of variability. Forest and non-forest vegetation change in the RNAs are made by fire, insects and disease, wind, and other change agents that occurred historically in the RNA. The Establishment Record will provide site-specific structural stage range targets, by coertype, for each RNA. It will also define the role that these change processes had on the historic landscape. The size, age, and spatial location of the naturally occurring plant communities will vary over time, as dictated by natural disturbance processes. Non native, non-desirable plant and animal species (as defined by the Establishment Record) will not exist within the RNAs by 2040.
- ◆ **Fire:** Prescribed fire is an acceptable management tool. Prescription, perimeter, and direct control fire management strategies are appropriate management responses to wildland fire. Not all strategies are appropriate nor will be implemented for all areas allocated to this management area. The Establishment Record will define the role that these change processes had on the historic landscape.
- ◆ **Scenery:** The valued landscape character appears intact. Deviations may be present but are mostly unobtrusive.
- ◆ **Recreation:** Nonmotorized recreation, such as hiking, horseback riding, cross-country skiing, hunting, and fishing, is allowed only when it is not a threat to the values for which the RNA was proposed or established. People experience solitude, a natural setting, low human densities, and their impacts to the ecosystem are non-existent or negligible when allowed.



## MANAGEMENT AREA PRESCRIPTIONS

- ◆ **Timber:** Timber harvest is not allowed, unless it is for scientific purposes or to restore natural conditions, as defined in the Establishment Record.
- ◆ **Livestock Grazing:** Livestock grazing maintains desired species composition, function, and processes as defined in the Establishment Record.

### Standards and Guidelines

#### Biological Diversity

- Standard 1. Protect the natural condition of the ecosystem, its processes, and any species or values for which the RNA was established. [1985 Plan – Modified]
- Guideline 1. Use vegetation manipulation only to restore natural conditions and processes. [1985 Plan – Modified]

#### Infrastructure

- Standards 1. Prohibit buildings and developed recreation sites, unless there are exceptional circumstances (such as a listing in the National Register of Historic Places) that do not threaten the values for which the RNA was proposed or designated. [1985 Plan – Modified & Desk Guide]
2. Prohibit construction of new roads and trails, except when they are necessary to correct resource damage occurring from existing travelways or unless needed for administrative purposes consistent with RNA establishment objectives. [1985 Plan – Modified & Desk Guide]
- Guideline 1. Prohibit motorized travel unless it provides necessary access for scientific or administrative purposes. [1985 Plan – Modified & Desk Guide]

#### Insects and Disease

- Guidelines 1. Allow natural outbreaks of native insects or disease to proceed without intervention, unless they pose a substantial threat to important resources inside or outside the boundaries of the RNA. [1985 Plan – Modified]
2. Use control methods that minimize disturbance. [1985 Plan – Modified]
3. Control populations of exotic (nonnative) plant and animal species, where feasible. Use control measures that minimize threats to native species. [New]

#### Livestock Grazing

- Guideline 1. Manage grazing by livestock to maintain a desired condition as described in the RNA establishment record. [1985 Plan – Modified]

### Mineral and Energy Resources

- Standards
1. When withdrawal is necessary to protect the values for which the area was designated, request withdrawal from mineral entry in conformance with Section 204 of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (PL 94-576). [New – Nebraska Plan].
  2. Allow oil and gas leasing; however, no ground-disturbing activities are permitted. [New – Nebraska Plan].
  3. Prohibit mineral material removal. [New – Nebraska Plan].

### Recreation

- Standards
1. Allow nonmotorized recreation, except when it is a threat to the values for which the RNA was proposed or established. [1985 Plan – Modified]
  2. Restrict recreational use if it threatens or interferes with the objectives or purposes for which the RNA is established. [1985 Plan – Modified]
- Guidelines
1. Use restrictions or closures under 36 CFR 219 Subpart B when necessary to protect the area from actual or potential damage due to public use. [1985 Plan – Modified]
  2. Manage for an adopted ROS class of primitive or semi-primitive nonmotorized. During the winter, manage Lake McLain for an adopted ROS class of semi-primitive motorized. [New]

### Scenery

- Guideline
1. Manage for the scenic integrity objective of high. [1985 Plan – Modified]

### Silviculture

- Standard
1. Don't allow forested vegetation treatments except for scientific purposes. [1985 Plan – Modified]

### Special Forest Products

- Standard
1. Prohibit personal and commercial use of special forest products. [New]

### Special Uses

- Standard
1. Do not issue new outfitter guides permits in the future. [New]
- Guidelines
1. Permit special uses only if they do not conflict with the values for which the RNA was proposed or established. [Desk Guide]
  2. Allow existing outfitter-guide permitted use to continue, subject to normal permit processes, within RNAs as long as it is compatible with the establishment objectives. [Desk Guide]

## Category 3

Ecological values are in balance with human occupancy, and consideration is given for both. Resource management activities occur, but natural ecological processes and patterns will normally predominate. Ecosystems are allowed to function naturally while resource use may change over time to accommodate the ecological factors. Although these areas have predominantly natural appearing landscapes, an array of management tools may be used to restore or maintain relatively natural patterns of ecological progress. This will result in some evidence of human activities. Users expect to experience some isolation from the sights and sounds of people in a setting that offers some challenge and risk. Restrictions on motorized travel may vary by area and season.

### 3.1 Special Interest Area (Medicine Wheel)

**Theme** – Special Interest Areas are managed to protect or enhance their unusual characteristics. Management emphasis is on protecting or enhancing (and where appropriate, developing and interpreting for public education or recreation) areas of unusual characteristics.

**Setting** – The Medicine Wheel, with its associated historic properties, symbolizes many values. The Medicine Wheel is important as a place for conducting traditional sacred ceremonies for American Indian people. Management standards and guidelines and future direction have been established in the Historic Preservation Plan for Medicine Wheel National Historic Landmark and Vicinity (HPP), signed September, 1996. The purpose of the HPP is to ensure the Medicine Wheel and Medicine Mountain are managed in a manner that protects the integrity of the site as a sacred site and a nationally important traditional cultural property. The area of consultation defines the boundaries in which the Forest will consult with the parties identified in the HPP. No single boundary can encompass all resources, as impacts of activities can and may overlap into other areas depending on the scope and magnitude of the impact.

**Desired Condition** –Vegetation, terrestrial, and aquatic habitat, soil productivity, and water quality will appear to be nearly natural. To the extent possible, the view from the Medicine Wheel will be managed in a setting that appears natural. Recreation use in the area will be managed for dispersed use except for developed use along U.S. Highway 14A. Access and transportation within the management area will be for the purposes of administration, protection, and access to National Forest System lands north of the Medicine Wheel. Resources protection, health and safety, and facilities (e.g., fences and or other kinds of barriers, toilets, refuse containers, signs) will be minimally used in the management area.

Multiple uses will be managed in a way that will not detract from the spiritual and traditional values associated with the Medicine Wheel. The area immediately surrounding the Medicine Wheel will be managed exclusively for protection of traditional cultural values. Other uses, such as grazing, camping, timber management, commercial use, etc. will be excluded from the area immediately surrounding the Medicine Wheel. Methods used to suppress fires near the Medicine Wheel will be those minimizing the impact of suppression actions on vegetative, physical, and cultural resources.

## **MANAGEMENT AREA PRESCRIPTIONS**

Prescribed fire is allowed. Prescription, perimeter, and direct control fire management strategies are appropriate management responses to wildland fire. Not all strategies are appropriate nor will be implemented for all areas allocated to this management area. The Historic Preservation Plan will be consulted in conjunction with all fire management activities.

### **Standards and Guidelines**

Apply the standards and guidelines in the 1996 Medicine Wheel / Medicine Mountain Historic Preservation Plan to this management area. Interpretation of the standards and guidelines will be addressed through the consultation process.

### 3.24 Riparian and Aquatic Ecosystem Management

**Theme** – Riparian areas are managed to provide healthy, self-perpetuating plant communities, meet water quality standards, provide habitats for viable populations of wildlife and fish, and provide stable stream channels and still water-body shorelines.

**Setting** – Emphasis is on the management of all of the component ecosystems of the riparian areas. These components include the aquatic ecosystem, the riparian ecosystem (characterized by distinct vegetation), and adjacent ecosystems that remain within approximately 100 ft. measure horizontally from both edges of all perennial streams and from the shores of lakes and other still water bodies.

The aquatic ecosystem may contain fisheries habitat improvements and channel stabilizing facilities that harmonize with the visual setting and maintain or improve wildlife and fish habitat requirements. The linear nature of streamside riparian areas permits programming of management activities which are visually subordinate.

**Desired Condition** – Forest riparian ecosystems will be treated to improve wildlife and fish habitat diversity through specified silvicultural objectives. Both commercial and on commercial vegetation treatments will be used to achieve multi-resource benefits. Clearcutting will be used to perpetuate aspen clones. Other forest cover types will be treated with either small group selection or single tree selection methods.

Livestock grazing will be at a level that will assure the maintenance of the vigor and regenerative capacity of the riparian plant communities. Vehicular travel will be limited on roads and trails at times when the ecosystems would be unacceptably damaged. Developed recreation facility construction for overnight use will be prohibited within the 100-year floodplain.

Prescribed fire is allowed. Prescription, perimeter, and direct control fire management strategies are appropriate management responses to wildland fire. Not all strategies are appropriate nor will be implemented for all areas allocated to this management area.

#### Standards and Guidelines

##### Infrastructure

- Guideline 1. Do not parallel streams when road location must occur in riparian areas except where absolutely necessary. Cross streams at right angles. Locate crossings at points of low bank slope and firm surfaces. [1985 Plan]

##### Livestock Grazing

- Guideline 1. Maintain proper stocking and livestock distribution to protect riparian ecosystems. [1985 Plan – Modified]

### Mineral and Energy Resources

- |            |   |
|------------|---|
| Standards  | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Allow oil and gas leasing; utilize controlled surface occupancy guidelines as necessary. [1985 Plan - modified]</li> <li>2. Allow mineral material removal. Restore area to a state of productivity comparable to that before disturbance.</li> </ol>   |
| Guidelines | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Prohibit the depositing of soil material from drilling, processing, or site preparation in natural drainageways. [1985 Plan]</li> <li>2. Locate the lower edge of disturbed or deposited soil banks outside the active floodplain. [1985 Plan]</li> <li>3. Prohibit stockpiling of topsoil or any other disturbed soil in the active floodplain. [1985 Plan]</li> <li>4. Prohibit mineral processing (milling) activities within the active floodplain. [1985 Plan]</li> <li>5. Discontinue heavy equipment use when soil compaction, rutting and puddling is present. [1985 Plan]</li> <li>6. Locate drilling mud pits outside the active floodplain unless alternate locations are more environmentally damaging. If location is unavoidable, seal and dike all pits to prevent damage. [1985 Plan]</li> <li>7. Drain and restore roads, pads, and drill sites immediately after use is discontinued. Revegetate to 80 percent of ground cover in the first year. Provide surface protection during stormflow and snowmelt runoff. [1985 Plan]</li> <li>8. Permit diversion activities within the riparian zone where technology is available to maintain water quality standards, sediment threshold limits, and instream flow standards. [1985 Plan]</li> </ol> |

### Recreation

- |           |  |
|-----------|--|
| Guideline | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Manage for an adopted ROS class of semi-primitive nonmotorized, semi-primitive motorized, roaded modified, roaded natural, and rural. [1985 Plan]</li> </ol> |
|-----------|--|

### Scenery

- |           |  |
|-----------|--|
| Guideline | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Manage for a scenic integrity objective of moderate. [1985 Plan - modified]</li> </ol> |
|-----------|--|

### 3.31 Backcountry Recreation, Year-round Motorized Use

**Theme** – Backcountry, motorized recreation areas are managed to provide recreation opportunities on primitive roads and trails in a landscape with a natural appearance.

**Setting** – These backcountry areas provide motorized and nonmotorized recreation opportunities on primitive roads and trails. The landscape has a predominantly natural appearance and is relatively undisturbed by human activity. Vegetation may be altered through timber harvest or fire (prescribed or wildland fire use) to enhance recreation opportunities, to provide vistas for people to view surrounding areas, or to meet objectives for wildlife habitat.

#### Desired Condition

- ◆ **Vegetation / Habitat:** A variety of plant communities, structural stages and associated wildlife occur in patterns maintained primarily through ecological processes. In or near high value areas, vegetative manipulation will result in less fuel load, vegetative density, and amount of dead and downed trees.
- ◆ **Fire:** The effects of fire may be evident in the landscape. Prescribed fire is an acceptable tool. Prescription, perimeter, and direct control fire management strategies are appropriate management responses to wildland fire. Not all strategies are appropriate nor will be implemented for all areas allocated to this management area.
- ◆ **Recreation:** A wide variety of recreational activities will take place in this area, both motorized and nonmotorized. There will be a moderate level of opportunity to experience solitude as well as challenge and risk. Motorized trails will be managed for motorcycles or ATVs as well as nonmotorized recreation, but may not always be clear of debris. Both snowmobiling and cross-country skiing will be allowed. Skiers should expect to encounter snowmobiles. Improvements to enhance recreation opportunities may include parking areas and informational, interpretative and directional signs, but improvements are minimal.
- ◆ **Scenery:** The landscape has a predominantly natural appearance and is relatively undisturbed by human activity although slight alterations may be evident.
- ◆ **Timber:** While these lands are not part of the suited timber base, unscheduled timber harvest may occur provided it is compatible with the recreational settings found here.
- ◆ **Livestock Grazing:** Domestic livestock grazing may occur during the summer. Signs of management practices, such as salting areas, fences and water developments may be present.

#### Standards and Guidelines

##### Infrastructure

- Guideline 1. Restrict some trails to nonmotorized use. [Desk Guide]

## MANAGEMENT AREA PRESCRIPTIONS

### **Livestock Grazing**

- Guideline 1. Manage livestock distribution and use patterns to be compatible with recreation use [1985 Plan – Modified]

### **Mineral and Energy Resources**

- Standard 1. Allow oil and gas leasing with controlled surface use (CSU) stipulations. [Desk Guide]

### **Recreation**

- Guidelines 1. Conduct resource management activities which are compatible with and which minimize impacts to recreational resources and opportunities. [Desk Guide]
2. Manage for an adopted ROS class of semi-primitive motorized. [New]

### **Scenery**

- Guideline 1. Manage for a scenic integrity objective of moderate.

### **Special Uses**

- Guideline 1. Permit competitive and group events on a case-by-case basis. [Desk Guide & 1985 Plan - Modified]



### 3.4 National River System – Scenic Rivers (Outside Wilderness)

**Theme** – Scenic Rivers and adjacent areas are managed to protect and perpetuate designated or eligible scenic river segments. They are managed to be free of impoundments. Shorelines are still largely primitive and undeveloped but may be accessible by roads in some places.

**Setting** – These areas have been identified as being eligible for Wild and Scenic River designation due to the presence of one of more outstandingly remarkable features which include scenic, recreational, geologic, wildlife, or fisheries values. The actual width of the area may vary in order to protect the outstanding values, but is at least one-quarter mile on either side of the stream.

#### Desired Conditions

- ◆ **Vegetation / Habitat:** A variety of plant communities, structural stages and associated wildlife may occur in patterns maintained primarily through ecological processes. The pattern of communities will largely be set by natural disturbance forces. In or near high value areas, vegetative manipulation will result in less fuel load, vegetative density and amount of dead and downed trees.
- ◆ **Fire:** The effects of fire may be evident in the landscape. Prescribed fire is an acceptable tool. The focus is on enhancing or protecting wild and scenic opportunities. Prescription, perimeter, and direct control fire management strategies are appropriate management responses to wildland fire. Not all strategies are appropriate nor will be implemented for all areas allocated to this management area.
- ◆ **Recreation:** A wide variety of recreational activities will take place in this area, both motorized and nonmotorized. Roads may occasionally bridge the river area and large campgrounds are screened from the river. Existing improvements include primitive roads, trails, bridges, and signs. Encounters between individuals or parties are generally frequent on the travelways open for use.
- ◆ **Scenery:** The landscape will have a predominantly natural appearance.
- ◆ **Timber:** Any forest vegetation treatments, when necessary, shall maintain the outstandingly remarkable characteristics for which the area is designated. These lands are not part of the suited timber base.
- ◆ **Livestock Grazing:** Evidence of livestock grazing may be present. Improvements such as salting areas, fences, shelters, or water diversions may be visible.

## Standards and Guidelines

### Aquatic Resources

- Standards
1. Do not authorize new water-development projects including hydroelectric and dams or diversions. [Desk Guide]
  2. To the extent the Forest Service is authorized under law to control stream impoundments and diversions, do not modify the free-flowing characteristics of the study river with new structures that were not part of conditions when eligibility was determined. [Desk Guide]

### Fire

- Guideline
1. Allow fuel treatments and pre-suppression activities, provided such practices do not degrade the outstandingly remarkable values of the river or the corridor landscape. [New]

### Infrastructure

- Standard
1. Allow road construction and reconstruction only if consistent with scenic river values and necessary for administrative purposes. [New]

### Livestock Grazing

- Guideline
1. Manage the timing, duration, and intensity of grazing, trailing, and livestock impacts in riparian corridors to prevent conflict with other uses, and to retain the outstandingly remarkable values of the area. [Modified from Current Plan & Desk Guide]
  2. Limit utilization of forage by recreational stock to not more than 30% of current annual growth in areas not used by permitted livestock (30 percent use is the proposed guideline for season long satisfactory range).

### Mineral and Energy Resources

- Standards
1. Designate these areas as administratively unavailable for new oil and gas leasing. [Desk Guide]
  2. Withdraw these areas from mineral entry. [Desk Guide]

### National River System

- Guideline
1. Allow minor existing structures if compatible with the values of the river corridor. Allow new structures, such as fisheries enhancement programs, if they meet the management objectives.

## MANAGEMENT AREA PRESCRIPTIONS

### Recreation

- Standard 1. Allow developed recreation facilities as long as they are visually compatible with the landscape and screened from the river. [Desk Guide]
- Guideline 1. Manage for an adopted ROS class of semi-primitive nonmotorized or semi-primitive motorized. [New]

### Scenery

- Guideline 1. Manage for a scenic integrity objective of high in the foreground and middleground within the river corridor (the management area boundary) is high. Manage for a scenic integrity objective of moderate in the viewshed beyond the river corridor.

### Silviculture

- Guideline 1. Allow forested vegetation treatments within the river corridor, provided such practices do not degrade the outstandingly remarkable values of the river or the corridor landscape. [New]

### Special Uses

- Standard 1. Authorize special uses only if they are compatible with the scenic river values. [New]

### 3.5 Plant and Wildlife Habitat Management

**Theme** – In these areas, management emphasis is to provide areas where plant and animal species diversity is maintained by protecting existing habitat integrity by minimizing additional permanent loss of habitat through development of facilities or roads. Plant communities and structural stages are actively managed to maintain biodiversity and ecosystem functions. Disturbances to wildlife are minimized.

**Setting** – Native insect and disease losses are generally accepted unless they threaten communities that are providing important habitat components. Natural and human-caused ignitions create a variety of fire sizes and shapes. Disturbances may be fairly evident and the scale may vary from small to large. There are few developed or designated recreational facilities.

#### Desired Condition

- ♦ **Vegetation / Habitat:** Manage plant communities and habitats (structural stages) to provide foraging areas, denning, cover, and areas of solitude in patterns across the landscape. The amount and distribution of various habitat conditions will be decided during project level planning, and will be determined in an interdisciplinary manner based upon the physical and biological capabilities of the landscape, and by which species, including rare plants, are present in the landscape. The size, shape, and scale of management activities should emulate natural patterns. The size and scale of activities will vary from individual trees to thousands of acres, depending upon the forest cover type and position on the landscape. Existing corridors and areas of late successional forests may be retained, and habitat connectivity (linkages between these areas) may be emphasized in project design. Immature and mature forest stands may be managed to provide a current and future mix of cover and large-diameter forests, considering the need of overall habitat diversity. The size of aspen clones and the distribution of aspen on the landscape will be maintained at current levels or increased. A variety of stand ages and tree sizes will occur to provide for species habitat, forage, and scenic enjoyment.

Native insect and disease losses that provide or improve important habitat components (such as snags and coarse woody debris) are generally accepted, unless they threaten communities or other high value areas. Vegetation around high value areas, such as campgrounds, summer homes, lodges, etc., will have a lower fuel hazard, as characterized by lower stand densities, fewer standing dead trees, less woody debris, and fewer understory trees and shrubs.

## MANAGEMENT AREA PRESCRIPTIONS

- ◆ **Fire:** Disturbances from fire will be seen, and the scale may vary from individual trees to thousands of acres. A variety of fire sizes and shapes result from natural and human caused ignitions. Fire will be a tool to achieve the habitat conditions described above, and as determined by project level planning. Fire is managed to protect communities, facilities, and other high value areas. Prescription, perimeter, and direct control fire management strategies are appropriate management responses to wildland fire. Not all strategies are appropriate nor will be implemented for all areas allocated to this management area.
- ◆ **Scenery:** The valued landscape character appears intact. Deviations may be present but are mostly unobtrusive. The shape should follow natural patterns, and should fit into the topography. Naturally occurring features, such as feathered edges (in clearcuts, leaving trees along the edge of units), leave patches, and species composition, should be utilized in planned management actions.
- ◆ **Recreation:** Motorized recreation activities may exist, although the amount and distribution is subordinate to species and habitat objectives. Typical recreation activities include hiking, hunting, fishing, horseback, dispersed camping, and wildlife viewing. Existing recreation facilities exist but are subordinate to species and habitat objectives. No new developed recreation facilities occur.
- ◆ **Timber:** A full range of management tools, including mechanical timber harvest, is available to achieve diversity in vegetation patterns and successional stages. Utilization opportunities will occur if it can be designed to meet habitat objectives. In areas where timber harvest occurs, the sights and sounds (landings, skid trails, logging equipment) of logging operations will occur. Tentatively suited forest lands are not part of the suited timber base, and timber harvest outputs do not contribute towards the Allowable Sale Quantity.
- ◆ **Roads:** The transportation system is present to support wildlife habitat objectives.
- ◆ **Livestock Grazing:** Livestock grazing is conducted to allow the desired species composition, function and processes as defined by the project level planning (allotment management plans).

## Standards and Guidelines

### Infrastructure

- Guidelines
1. Do not construct new forest system roads or facilities, except when they contribute to improving habitat or providing legal access. [Desk Guide]
  2. Decommission any temporary roads within one year following intended use. [Desk Guide]

**Mineral and Energy Resources**

- Standards
1. When withdrawal is necessary to protect the values for which the area was designated, request withdrawal from mineral entry in conformance with Section 204 of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (PL 94-576). [Desk Guide]
  2. Allow oil and gas leasing; however, there is controlled surface use. [Desk Guide]

**Recreation**

- Guideline
1. Manage so that recreation is subordinate to habitat and species needs. [New]
  2. Manage for an adopted ROS class of semi-primitive nonmotorized or semi-primitive motorized. [New]

**Scenery**

- Guideline
1. Manage for a scenic integrity objective of moderate

## Category 4

Ecological values are managed to provide recreational use but are maintained well within the levels necessary to sustain overall ecological systems. Resource use for other values is not emphasized and has little impact on ecological structure, function, or composition. Human use is recreation-oriented. Sights and sounds of people are to be expected and may even be desired. Motorized transportation is common.

### 4.2 Scenery

**Theme** – Areas are managed for scenic values and recreation uses of designated scenic byways and other heavily used scenic travel corridors.

**Setting**– These areas occur where scenic features are a management focus. They are scenic byways, high quality scenic areas, travel corridors, vistas, or other areas noted for outstanding physical features. The landscape provides high quality scenery, through time, incorporating management activities such as timber harvest, prescribed fire, recreation, and livestock use.

Developments such as roads, recreation facilities, and rangeland improvements may be evident, but appear to be in harmony with the natural environment. Recreation facilities such as scenic overlooks, interpretive signing, trailheads, campgrounds and rest areas may occur.

Evidence of human activities or habitation due to mining or grazing may be present now and in the future. Frequent contact with other users is acceptable in most cases. Both motorized and nonmotorized recreation opportunities may occur. Many uses and their interactions are interpreted for the visitor.

#### Desired Condition

- ◆ **Vegetation / Habitat:** A mix of structural stages, including created openings, maintain or enhance the scenic resource. To achieve this, a balance of short term and long-term changes will be reflected in the vegetative pattern through a diversity of age classes. Aspen is healthy and regenerating. Management of insect and disease outbreaks is based on scenic values. Vegetation around high value areas, such as campgrounds, summer homes, lodges, etc. will have a lower fuel hazard, as characterized by lower stand densities, fewer standing dead trees, less woody debris, and fewer understory trees and shrubs.
- ◆ **Fire:** Prescribed fire is an acceptable tool and may influence landscape vegetation patterns. Prescription, perimeter, and direct control fire management strategies are appropriate management responses to wildland fire. Not all strategies are appropriate nor will be implemented for all areas allocated to this management area.

- ◆ **Recreation:** A diversity of recreation opportunities will be available, ranging from nonmotorized (such as hiking, horseback and cross-country ski areas) to motorized (auto travel, ATV and motorcycle riding), both in the summer and winter. Access is provided to natural attractions, water features, or areas that provide recreational opportunities. Interpretation and conservation education are provided for visitors. Use may be concentrated or dispersed, depending on the need to protect an area from degradation. Facilities may be present to enhance viewing or recreational opportunities. Developed recreation sites may be common and are often emphasized in these travel corridors. Trailheads are easily accessible
- ◆ **Scenery:** These areas appear slightly altered. Signs of active forest management (stumps, slash piles, etc.) may be seen.
- ◆ **Timber:** These lands are not part of the suited timber base although vegetation management will be used to enhance the scenic resource and is done in a way that blends with the landscape.
- ◆ **Livestock Grazing:** Evidence of livestock grazing is present. Improvements are visible.

## Standards and Guidelines

### Infrastructure

- Guidelines
1. Construct and maintain facilities to levels needed to support recreation activities. [Desk Guide]
  2. Construct facilities that are consistent with the BEIG (Built Environment Image Guide) and the desired recreation opportunity spectrum class for the area. [New]
  3. Design proposed roads and trails to blend with the landscape. [Desk Guide]
  4. Sign roads and trails to enhance recreation. [New]

### Insects and Disease

- Guideline
1. Focus management activities and methods on enhancing or protecting the scenic quality of the area. [New]

### Livestock Grazing

- Guideline
1. Manage livestock distribution and use patterns to be compatible with scenic values of the area [Modified from Current Plan]



## MANAGEMENT AREA PRESCRIPTIONS

### Mineral and Energy Resources

- Standards
1. Withdraw these areas from mineral entry when necessary to meet the objectives of the management area. [Desk Guide]
  2. Allow oil and gas leasing with the appropriate stipulations to meet the objectives of the management area. [Desk Guide]

### Recreation

- Guideline
1. Manage for an adopted ROS Class of rural or roaded natural. [New]

### Scenery

- Guidelines
1. Manage for a scenic integrity objective of high for focal landscapes, scenic overlooks, and named landmarks.
  2. In areas other than those stated in the guideline above, manage for a scenic integrity objective of moderate.

### Wildlife and Botany

- Guideline
1. Encourage improvement projects that increase opportunities for wildlife and wildflower viewing, interpretation, habitat management, fishing, and hunting. [New]

### 4.3 Dispersed Recreation

**Theme** – Dispersed recreation areas are managed to provide undeveloped recreation opportunities in landscapes that are natural or have a natural appearance.

**Setting** – These areas are characterized by having relatively easy access to a water feature or other natural attraction where dispersed camping, picnicking, and other activities occur. These areas are often heavily used because of inherent natural features that provide a variety of recreational opportunities for visitors. Developed recreation sites may occur in this area.

Generally, these areas appear as a natural landscape over large areas, but modifications on a small scale are acceptable and blend with the area's natural features.

#### Desired Condition

- ◆ **Vegetation / Habitat:** Forested vegetation will be mostly mature, with natural and human vegetative treatments apparent. Management of insect and disease outbreaks is based on recreation values. Vegetation around high value areas, such as campgrounds, summer homes, lodges, etc. will have a lower fuel hazard, as characterized by lower stand densities, fewer standing dead trees, less woody debris, and fewer understory trees and shrubs.
- ◆ **Fire:** Prescribed fire is an acceptable tool and may influence landscape vegetation patterns. Prescription, perimeter, and direct control fire management strategies are appropriate management responses to wildland fire. Not all strategies are appropriate nor will be implemented for all areas allocated to this management area.
- ◆ **Recreation:** A diversity of nonmotorized and motorized trail opportunities are provided. The potential for contact with other users is high. The areas offer few conveniences for users, but may have toilets, fire grills, hardened sites and vehicle barriers if needed to protect resources. Management actions attempt to maintain the natural characteristics that make the area popular. Opportunities for solitude are limited. These areas may be used by large groups.
- ◆ **Scenery:** These areas appear slightly altered. Signs of active forest management (stumps, slash piles, etc.) may be seen.
- ◆ **Timber:** These lands are not part of the suited timber base although vegetation management is an acceptable activity and when it occurs, will be used to enhance the recreation resource and is done in a way that blends with the landscape.
- ◆ **Livestock Grazing:** Evidence of livestock grazing is present. Improvements are visible.

## MANAGEMENT AREA PRESCRIPTIONS

### Standards and Guidelines

#### Infrastructure

- Guidelines 1. Limit facilities to what is necessary to protect or enhance the resources. [Desk Guide]

#### Livestock Grazing

- Guideline 1. Manage livestock distribution and use patterns to be compatible with recreation use. [Modified from Current Plan]

#### Mineral and Energy Resources

- Standards 1. Allow oil and gas leasing, with a Controlled Surface Use stipulation. [Desk Guide]
2. Withdraw these areas from locatable mineral entry when necessary to meet the objective of the management area. [Desk Guide]

#### Recreation

- Guideline 1. In high-use recreation sites, harden the sites and/or enforce additional restrictions to protect sensitive natural resources.
2. Manage for an adopted ROS class of semi-primitive motorized or roaded natural. [New]

#### Scenery

- Guidelines 1. Manage for a scenic integrity objective of moderate.

#### 4.4 Recreation Rivers

**Theme** – Backcountry, motorized recreation areas are managed to provide recreation opportunities on primitive roads and trails in a landscape with a natural appearance.

**Setting** – These backcountry areas provide challenging motorized and nonmotorized recreation opportunities on primitive roads and trails.

##### Desired Condition

- ◆ **Vegetation / Habitat:** Forested vegetation will be mostly mature, with natural and human vegetative treatments apparent. Management of insect and disease outbreaks is based on recreation values. Vegetation around high value areas, such as campgrounds, summer homes, lodges, etc. will have a lower fuel hazard, as characterized by lower stand densities, fewer standing dead trees, less woody debris, and fewer understory trees and shrubs.
- ◆ **Fire:** Prescribed fire is an acceptable tool and may influence landscape vegetation patterns. Prescription, perimeter, and direct control fire management strategies are appropriate management responses to wildland fire. Not all strategies are appropriate nor will be implemented for all areas allocated to this management area.
- ◆ **Recreation:** A diversity of motorized and nonmotorized recreation opportunities will be provided. The potential for contact with other visitors is high. There may be parallel roads to the river and several motorized access points to the river. Developed recreation facilities are acceptable within the river corridor.
- ◆ **Scenery:** The foreground appears slightly altered. Evidence of human activities or habitation due to timber harvest, recreation activities, or grazing may be present now and in the future.
- ◆ **Timber:** These lands are not part of the suited timber base although vegetation management is an acceptable activity and when it occurs, will be used to protect the values which make them eligible for designation as recreation rivers.
- ◆ **Livestock Grazing:** Evidence of livestock grazing is present. Improvements are visible.

##### Standards and Guidelines

###### Livestock Grazing

- Guideline 1. Manage livestock distribution and use patterns to be compatible with recreation use. [Modified from current plan]

###### Mineral and Energy Resources

- Standards 1. Prohibit mineral entry in these areas. [Desk Guide]
2. Designate these areas as administratively unavailable for new oil and gas leasing. [Desk Guide]

## MANAGEMENT AREA PRESCRIPTIONS

### National River System

- Standards
1. Don't allow management actions, proposed new uses, or new facilities on National Forest System lands if they alter the recreation characteristics of the land and physical resources or affect the suitability of the river. [Desk Guide & 1985 Plan - Modified]
  2. To the extent the Forest Service is authorized under law to control stream impoundments and diversions, don't modify the free-flowing characteristics of the river with new structures that were not part of conditions when suitability was determined. [Desk Guide]

### Recreation

- Guideline
1. Manage for an adopted ROS class of roaded natural. [New]

### Scenery

- Guidelines
1. Manage for a scenic integrity objective of moderate.

## Category 5

These areas are managed to meet a variety of ecological and human needs. They are often characterized by a substantially modified natural environment. A wide variety of vegetative structure and composition is present; some showing the effects of past management activities; others affected by predominantly natural forces such as fire, insects, and diseases. Ecological conditions are maintained, while emphasizing selected biological structures and compositions considering the range of natural variability. These lands often display high levels of investment, use, and activity; density of facilities; and evidence of vegetative manipulation. Users expect to see other people and evidence of human activities. Facilities supporting the various resource uses are common. Motorized transportation is common.

In some ecosystems intensive management is necessary to restore the systems to their range of natural variability. This management is usually a combination of livestock grazing, prescribed fire and timber harvest treatments.

### 5.11 Forest Vegetation Emphasis

**Theme** – General forest and intermingled rangeland areas are managed to provide for a mix of wildlife habitat, forest products, and forage, while providing for visual quality, recreational opportunities, and a variety of other goods and services.

**Setting** – These areas are characterized by forest and grassland communities and managed with a strong multiple-use emphasis. The major vegetation type is coniferous forest, with open parks, meadows, shrub communities and aspen. Uses in these areas include grazing, wood production, mineral exploration and development, hunting, driving for pleasure, wildlife viewing, and winter sports. Management emphasis is on a balance of resource uses.

Visitors to this area can expect to find a full range of improvements. Road quality may vary from primitive roads to hard-surfaced. There may be fences, corrals, water developments, trails, timber harvest operations, rangeland revegetation projects, or evidence of other human activities or improvements. Visitors may also expect dispersed recreation opportunities including both motorized and nonmotorized. Access may be restricted, at times, through the use of seasonal or year-long road closures.

There may be developed camping opportunities. Opportunities for multiple-use trails exist. Existing facilities (roads, primitive roads, trails, bridges, fences, shelters, signs or water diversions) blend into the landscape where feasible or are removed if no longer needed.

### Desired Condition

- ◆ **Vegetation / Habitat:** Forested vegetation will exist in a range of successional stages to meet wildlife, structural stage diversity, rangeland vegetation and timber objectives. Forest vegetation on suited lands will be managed to provide an even distribution of age classes. Forest vegetation on nonsuited lands will be managed for more late successional stages. Lodgepole pine will generally be managed for even-aged structure while spruce-fir will generally be managed for uneven-aged structure. Aspen stands will be maintained or increased. Insects and diseases will be managed to keep outbreaks below epidemic levels. Non-forested vegetation is managed to allow for successional progress toward a mid to late seral status unless otherwise determined in a site-specific allotment management plans.

Vegetation around high value areas, such as campgrounds, summer homes, lodges and other developed facilities will have a lower fuel hazard which is characterized by lower stand densities, fewer standing dead trees, less woody debris and fewer understory trees and shrubs.
- ◆ **Fire:** Wildfires will be managed to protect resource investments. Perimeter and direct control fire management strategies are appropriate management responses to wildland fire. Not all strategies are appropriate nor will be implemented for all areas allocated to this management area. The use of prescribed fire is encouraged. Evidence of active fire suppression may be apparent.
- ◆ **Recreation:** Typical recreation opportunities will be those which are compatible with the more developed end of the recreation opportunity spectrum including a extensive road and trail system though opportunities for more primitive recreation will exist. Some recreational activities that may be observed include hiking, fishing, hunting, ATV and motorcycle use, snowmobile use, and developed and dispersed camping.
- ◆ **Scenery:** Some of the landscape will appear to be moderately altered with deviations from natural settings dominating the landscape, except for areas in the foreground of identified high concern areas which will appear only slightly altered where deviations from natural settings are subordinate to the landscape
- ◆ **Timber:** Tentatively suited timberlands in this area are included in the suitable timber base. These areas have active timber management that contributes to the scheduled ASQ. Evidence of timber management activities such as stumps, slash piles, disturbed soil, and the presence of logging equipment should be expected. Openings in the forest canopy will be created to provide for this wide range of structural stages as well as the production of wood fiber. The size and shape of the created openings should blend with the size, shape, and pattern of natural openings found in the area or with the existing forested stand patterns.
- ◆ **Livestock Grazing:** Domestic livestock can be anticipated in this area during the summer grazing season. Improvements, such as fences and water developments are visible.

## Standards and Guidelines

### Insects and Disease

- Guideline 1. Manage forested areas so insect infestations and disease outbreaks remain locally restricted. [New]

### Recreation

- Guideline 1. Coordinate construction of new recreation facilities with other resource management objectives. [Desk Guide]
2. Manage for an adopted ROS class of roaded natural or roaded modified. [New]

### Scenery

- Guidelines 1. Manage for a scenic integrity objective of moderate in the foreground zone (1/4-1/2 mile) of concern, concern level one and two roads, trails and use areas. The full range of silvicultural harvest systems, including clearcut and shelterwood, are available.
2. Manage for a scenic integrity objective of low in areas other than those stated above.

### Silviculture

- Guideline 1. Manage forested lands designated as “suitable” and “scheduled” for timber production to produce wood fiber. [1985- Modified]



### 5.12 Rangeland Vegetation Emphasis

**Theme** – These areas are managed for sustainability of the physical, biological, and visual values associated with areas of woody vegetation and open grassland. Vegetation is managed to achieve and maintain the desired conditions for wildlife, livestock, and vegetation. [Desk Guide]

**Setting** – Open grasslands and areas of woody vegetation dominate this management area. Many of these areas produce substantial forage for wildlife and livestock needs. The areas also provide resource values such as wildlife habitat and recreation. [Desk guide, modified]

These lands provide the opportunity for a variety of management options, including wildlife habitat, livestock grazing, dispersed recreation, minerals management, and timber harvest. Management emphasis is on a balance of resource uses. [Desk Guide]

Vegetative diversity exists including species associated with grasslands, shrubs, aspen, and conifers. Signs of motorized travel, hunting, hiking, timber harvest, mining, and livestock grazing may be evident. [Desk Guide]

Recreation facilities may be present and coordinated with rangeland vegetation and other management activities of the area. Dispersed camping opportunities are plentiful. [Desk Guide]

Desired condition is maintained through use of structural and non structural forage improvement practices, livestock management, and integrated resource management. Structural improvements benefit, or at least do not adversely affect wildlife. Livestock and related rangeland improvements such as ponds, fences, developed springs, stock tanks and stock pipelines are designed to improve livestock distribution. Nonstructural restoration and forage improvement practices such as seeding, planting, burning, fertilizing, and spraying may be used. Cutting of encroaching trees may also occur. [Modified from current forest plan 6a and b]

Roads vary from primitive to gravel surfaced. Some roads are closed seasonally to protect road surfaces, reduce maintenance, and reduce disturbance to wildlife. [Modified from desk guide]

#### Desired Condition

- ♦ **Vegetation / Habitat:** Forest vegetation on suited lands will be managed to provide an even distribution of age classes. Forest vegetation on nonsuited lands will be managed for more late successional characteristics such as multi layered canopies, snags and down woody material. Insects and disease will be managed to keep outbreaks below epidemic levels.

Lodgepole pine will generally be managed for even-aged structure while spruce-fir will generally be managed for uneven-aged structure. Aspen stands will be maintained or increased. Rangeland vegetation is managed to allow for successional progress toward a mid to late seral status unless otherwise determined in a site-specific allotment management plans.

Vegetation around high value areas, such as campgrounds, summer homes, lodges and other developed facilities will have a lower fuel hazard which is characterized by lower stand densities, fewer standing dead trees, less woody debris and fewer understory trees and shrubs.

- ◆ **Fire:** Wildfires will be managed to protect resource investments. Perimeter and direct control fire management strategies are appropriate management responses to wildland fire. Not all strategies are appropriate nor will be implemented for all areas allocated to this management area. The use of prescribed fire is encouraged. Evidence of active fire suppression may be apparent.
- ◆ **Recreation:** Typical recreation opportunities will be those which are compatible with the more developed end of the recreation opportunity spectrum including a extensive road and trail system though opportunities for more primitive recreation will exist. Some recreational activities that may be observed include hiking, fishing, hunting, ATV and motorcycle use, snowmobile use and camping both developed and dispersed sites.
- ◆ **Scenery:** Some of the landscape will appear to be moderately altered; deviations from natural processes are dominant, except for areas in the foreground of identified high concern areas which will appear only slightly altered with deviations from natural processes are subordinate to the landscape.
- ◆ **Timber:** Tentatively suited lands greater than 250 contiguous acres are included in the suited base while areas less than 250 are nonsuited. Active timber management will occur on the suited timber base. Evidence of timber management activities such as stumps, slash piles, disturbed soil, and the presence of logging equipment should be expected.
- ◆ **Livestock Grazing:** Domestic livestock can be anticipated in this area during the summer grazing season. Improvements such as fences and water developed are visible.

## Standards and Guidelines

### Insects and Disease

- Guideline 1. Manage forested areas suited for timber production so insect and disease outbreaks remain locally restricted. [New]

### Recreation

- Guideline 1. Manage for an adopted ROS class of roaded natural or roaded modified. [New]

## **MANAGEMENT AREA PRESCRIPTIONS**

### **Scenery**

- Guidelines
1. Manage for a scenic integrity objective of moderate in the foreground zone (1/4-1/2 mile) of concern, concern level one and two roads, trails and use areas. The full range of silvicultural harvest systems, including clearcut and shelterwood, are available.
  2. Manage for a scenic integrity objective of low in areas other than those stated above.

### **Silviculture**

- Guideline
1. Manage to enhance and maintain isolated islands of forest within the grass/shrub ecosystems.

### 5.13 Forest Products

**Theme** – These lands are managed to provide commercial wood products. They are managed for wood products while providing for forage production, other commercial products, visual quality, diversity of wildlife, and a variety of other goods and services. Numerous open roads provide commercial access and roaded recreational opportunities, while closed roads provide non-motorized opportunities.

**Setting** – Vegetation is managed to develop a range of successional stages from seedlings to mature stands to late successional stands. The full array of silvicultural practices and systems may be appropriate to achieve this objective. Management practices include stand regeneration by both natural and artificial means, stocking level control, and protection of stands from anticipated damage. Thinning is commonly encountered except in lynx habitat.

Stands are primarily coniferous, though aspen also occurs. There are some natural openings and meadows of various sizes and shapes.

Cut areas show stumps, slash, and disturbed soils. Slash may be left to rot, be burned, or otherwise disposed of. Vegetation grows back on disturbed areas. Recently cut areas may have a partial canopy of older trees. The boundaries of cut areas appear to follow natural landscape patterns.

Activities such as hunting, hiking, and bicycling may occur along roads closed to vehicular traffic. Recreation facilities may be present and coordinated with other multiple uses of the area. There are opportunities for dispersed recreation.

There is an extensive road and trail system, ranging from primitive roads to maintained gravel roads. Road quality may vary from primitive to paved surfaces. Some roads are closed seasonally; others are closed after silvicultural treatments are complete. Access may be limited by use of seasonal or year-long road closures.

#### Desired Condition

- ♦ **Vegetation / Habitat:** Forested vegetation is managed to develop a range of structural stages. Forest vegetation on suited lands will be managed to provide a even distribution of age classes. Forest vegetation on nonsuited lands will be managed for more late successional stages. Lodgepole pine will generally be managed for even-aged structure; spruce-fir will generally be managed for uneven-aged structure. Aspen stands will be maintained or increased.
- Vegetation around high value areas, such as campgrounds, summer homes, lodges and other developed facilities will have a lower fuel hazard which is characterized by lower stand densities, fewer standing dead trees, less woody debris and fewer understory trees and shrubs. Insects and diseases will be managed to keep outbreaks below epidemic levels. Rangeland vegetation is managed to allow for successional progress toward a

## MANAGEMENT AREA PRESCRIPTIONS

mid to late seral status unless otherwise determined in a site-specific allotment management plans.

- ◆ **Fire:** Wildfires will be managed to protect resource investments. Perimeter and direct control fire management strategies are appropriate management responses to wildland fire. Not all strategies are appropriate nor will be implemented for all areas allocated to this management area. The use of prescribed fire is encouraged. Evidence of active fire suppression may be apparent.
- ◆ **Recreation:** Typical recreation opportunities will be those which are compatible with the more developed end of the recreation opportunity spectrum including a extensive road and trail system though opportunities for more primitive recreation will exist. Some recreational activities that may be observed include hiking, fishing, hunting, ATV and motorcycle use, snowmobile use and camping in both developed and dispersed sites.
- ◆ **Scenery:** Some of the landscape will appear to be moderately altered with deviations from natural processes dominating the landscape, except for areas in the foreground of identified high concern areas which will appear only slightly altered with deviations from natural processes are a subordinate to the landscape.
- ◆ **Timber:** These areas have active timber management that contribute to the scheduled ASQ. Tentatively suited timberlands in this area are included in the suitable timber base. Evidence of timber management activities such as stumps, slash piles, disturbed soil and the presence of logging equipment should be expected. Slash from timber harvesting will be managed to maintain or improve soil productivity and reduce the risk of loss due to fire. Timber harvest units will be evident on the landscape though they will generally follow natural landscape patterns and existing stand shapes and sizes.
- ◆ **Livestock Grazing:** Domestic livestock can be anticipated in this area during the summer grazing season. Improvements such as fences and water developments are visible.

## Standards and Guidelines

### Infrastructure

- Guidelines    1.    Do not construct timber sale roads to higher standards than those required to meet the needs of timber production, unless other needs are identified. [Desk Guide]

### Insects and Disease

- Guideline    1.    Manage forested areas such that insect and disease outbreaks are actively controlled. [1985 Plan – Modified]

### Recreation

- Guideline 1. Manage for an adopted ROS class of roaded natural or roaded modified. [New]
2. Coordinate construction of new recreation facilities with other resource management objectives. [Desk Guide]
3. Manage for and encourage motorized travel opportunities in this area. [New]

### Scenery

- Guidelines 1. In general, manage for a scenic integrity objective of low. Manage for a scenic integrity objective of moderate along the following critical routes:  
 FSR 27, FST 063 and FST 065 – West Tensleep Road and Trails  
 FSR 15 – Burgess Road (i.e. Dayton Gulch Road)  
 FSR 429 – High Park Lookout Road  
 FSR 21 – Tiehack Campground Road  
 FSR 16 – Black Mountain Road  
 FSR 222 and FST 011 – Black Mountain Lookout Road and Trail  
 The full range of silvicultural harvest systems, including clearcut and shelterwood, are available.
2. Apply rehabilitation practices when scenic integrity objectives are not being met.

### Silviculture

- Guideline 1. Manage forested lands designated as “suitable” and “scheduled” for timber production to produce wood fiber. [1985 Plan – Modified]
2. Manage stands using treatments that maintain acceptable rates of growth, as well as favor commercially valuable tree species. [1985 Plan – Modified]

### 5.21 Increase Water Yield, Vegetative Management

**Theme** – These lands are managed with emphasis on increasing water yield and improving the timing of water flow through manipulation of vegetation. Sustained vegetative treatment methods are specifically designed to enhance water production and timing.

**Setting** – The location, shape, and size of vegetation treatment areas are specifically designed. Clearcutting is the harvest method used with all forest cover types.

Road quality may vary from primitive to paved surfaces. Access may be limited by use of seasonal or year-long road closures. Opportunities for dispersed recreation activities exist. Activities such as hunting, hiking, and bicycling may occur along roads closed to vehicular traffic.

Cut areas show stumps, slash, and disturbed soils. Slash may be left to rot, be burned, or otherwise disposed. Vegetation grows back on disturbed areas. Recently cut areas may have a partial canopy of older trees. The boundaries of cut areas appear to follow natural landscape patterns.

#### Desired Condition

- ◆ **Vegetation / Habitat:** Vegetation is managed to increase water yield and improve timing of flows. Management gives priority to the conversion of decadent and over mature stands into young stands managed at stocking levels that maintain acceptable site occupancy and increased growth. Lodgepole and spruce-fir will be managed for even-aged structure. Snags will be scattered throughout the area, but will be less prevalent than in most other areas of the forest. Insects and diseases will be managed to keep outbreaks below epidemic levels.
- ◆ **Fire:** Wildfires will be managed to protect resource investments. Perimeter and direct control fire management strategies are appropriate management responses to wildland fire. Not all strategies are appropriate nor will be implemented for all areas allocated to this management area. The use of prescribed fire is encouraged. Evidence of active fire suppression may be apparent.
- ◆ **Recreation:** Typical recreation opportunities will be those which are compatible with the more developed end of the recreation opportunity spectrum including a extensive road and trail system though opportunities for more primitive recreation will exist. Some recreational activities that may be observed include hiking, fishing, hunting, ATV and motorcycle use, snowmobile use, and developed and dispersed camping.
- ◆ **Scenery:** Some of the landscape will appear to be moderately altered with deviations from natural settings dominating the landscape, except for areas in the foreground of identified high concern areas which will appear only slightly altered where deviations from natural settings are subordinate to the landscape.

- ♦ **Timber:** Timber harvest units will generally follow natural landscape patterns, existing stand shape and size, and will be evident on the landscape. Slash from timber harvesting will be managed to maintain or improve soil productivity and reduce the risk of loss due to fire.
- ♦ **Livestock Grazing:** Livestock and related rangeland improvements, such as ponds and fences, may be present where compatible with deer and elk habitat needs.

## Standards and Guidelines

### Insects and Disease

- Guideline 1. Manage forested areas such that insect and disease outbreaks are actively controlled. [1985 Plan – Modified]

### Recreation

- Guideline 1. Manage for an adopted ROS class of semi-primitive nonmotorized, semi-primitive motorized, roaded natural, and rural.. [New]

### Scenery

- Guidelines 1. Manage for a scenic integrity objective of low.

### Silviculture

- Guideline 1. Manage forested lands designated as “suitable” and “scheduled” for timber production to produce wood fiber. [1985 Plan – Modified]
2. Manage stands using treatments that maintain acceptable rates of growth, as well as favor commercially valuable tree species. [1985 Plan – Modified]



## 5.4 Plant and Wildlife Habitat

**Theme** – These areas are primarily forested ecosystems intermingled with grassland and shrub communities, and are managed to provide a mix of ecological and human needs. Plant communities and structural stages are actively managed for biodiversity and ecosystem function. Wood fiber production is a by-product of managing for vegetative diversity and improving wildlife habitat. Wildlife habitat improvement is sought where the existing habitat lacks desired vegetation conditions.

**Setting** – These areas are characterized by forest and grassland communities and managed with a multiple-use emphasis that supports habitat needs compatible with wildlife. Uses in these areas include, but are not limited to active vegetation management, wildlife viewing, hunting, driving for pleasure, grazing, wood production, and winter sports. The major vegetation type is coniferous forest, with open parks, meadows, shrub communities, and aspen.

Visitors to this area can expect to find a full range of improvements. Road quality may vary from primitive roads to hard-surfaced. There may be fences, corrals, water developments, trails, timber harvest operations, prescribed burning or evidence of other human activities or improvements. Visitors may expect dispersed motorized and nonmotorized recreation opportunities. Motorized access may be restricted, at times, through the use of seasonal or year-long road closures.

Developed camping opportunities may occur. There are opportunities for motorized and nonmotorized trails. Existing facilities (roads, primitive roads, trails, bridges, fences, shelters, signs, or water diversions) blend into the landscape where feasible or are removed if no longer needed.

### Desired Condition

- ♦ **Vegetation / Wildlife Habitat:** Forested vegetation will exist in a range of successional stages to meet wildlife habitat and structural stage diversity and may be managed to provide more late successional stages as compared to other Category 5 management areas. Lodgepole pine will generally be managed for even-aged structure, while spruce-fir will generally be managed for uneven-aged structure. In isolated stands less than 250 acres in size, wildlife habitat opportunities will be emphasized. Aspen will be actively managed to enlarge aspen acreage and to diversify structural stages. Insects and diseases will be managed to keep outbreaks below epidemic levels on suited acres. Snags will be more prevalent than in other Category 5 management areas. Rangeland vegetation is managed to allow for successional progress toward a mid to late seral status unless otherwise determined in a site-specific allotment management plans. Vegetation around high value areas, such as campgrounds, summer homes, lodges and other developed facilities will have a lower fuel hazard which is characterized by lower stand densities, fewer standing dead trees, less woody debris and fewer understory trees and shrubs.

- ◆ **Fire:** Wildfires will be managed to protect resource investments. Perimeter and direct control fire management strategies are appropriate management responses to wildland fire. Not all strategies are appropriate nor will be implemented for all areas allocated to this management area. The use of prescribed fire is encouraged. Evidence of active fire suppression may be apparent.
- ◆ **Recreation:** Typical recreation opportunities will be those compatible with the less developed end of the recreation opportunity spectrum, including a limited road and trail system. Opportunities for more primitive recreation will exist. Some recreational activities that may be observed include hiking, fishing, hunting, ATV and motorcycle use, snowmobile use, and developed and dispersed camping. Road densities are actively managed to benefit wildlife habitat.
- ◆ **Scenery:** Some of the landscape will appear to be moderately altered with deviations from natural settings dominating the landscape, except for areas in the foreground of identified high concern areas which will appear only slightly altered where deviations from natural settings are subordinate to the landscape.
- ◆ **Timber:** Suited lands in this area contribute to the ASQ but are managed to maintain or enhance wildlife habitat diversity. Elk security habitat will be actively rotated on the landscape. Evidence of timber management activities such as stumps, slash piles, disturbed soil, and the presence of logging equipment should be expected. Openings in the forest canopy will be created to provide for a wide range of structural stages as well as the production of wood fiber. The size and shape of the created openings should blend with the size, shape, and pattern of natural openings found in the area or with the existing forested stand patterns.
- ◆ **Livestock Grazing:** There may be domestic livestock in this area during the summer grazing season. Improvements, such as fences and water developments, will be visible.

## Standards and Guidelines

### Infrastructure

- Guidelines
1. For areas open to motorized travel, do not exceed an average road density of 1.0 miles per square mile, calculated at the 6<sup>th</sup>-level HUC watershed within the management area. [New]
  2. For open roaded and motorized trail stream crossings, do not exceed an average density of 0.5 crossings per square mile, calculated at the 6<sup>th</sup>-level HUC watershed within the management area. [New]

### Insects and Disease

- Guideline
1. Manage forested areas such that insect infestations and disease outbreaks remain locally restricted on suited acres. [New]

## MANAGEMENT AREA PRESCRIPTIONS

### Recreation

- Guideline 1. Manage for an adopted ROS class of roaded natural or roaded modified. [Desk New]

### Scenery

- Guidelines 1. Manage for a scenic integrity objective of moderate in the foreground zone (1/4-1/2 mile) of concern, concern level one and two roads, trails and use areas.
2. Manage for a scenic integrity objective of low in areas other than those stated above.

### Silviculture

- Standards 1. Stands of timber less than 250 acres and greater than ¼ mile from another stand are not suited, though harvest activities may occur. [New]
2. Forested acres within 300' of perennial and ephemeral streams are not suited, though harvest activities may occur. [New]
- Guideline 1. Manage forested lands designated as “suitable” and “scheduled” for timber production to optimize habitat diversity objectives for wildlife species. [1985- Modified]
2. Rotation ages may be longer to meet late successional objectives.
3. Do not conduct vegetation treatments in inventoried and mapped spruce-fir or lodgepole pine old growth stands, except in high value areas such as trailheads, cow camps, recreation residences, or lands of other ownership. [Medicine Bow Forest Plan]

### 5.41 Deer and Elk Winter Range

**Theme** – Deer and elk winter or transition ranges are managed to provide adequate amounts of quality forage, cover, and solitude for deer, elk, and other species.

**Setting** – The areas include lands classified as winter range by Wyoming Game and Fish Department, areas used during light winters, spring and autumn transition ranges, calving and fawning areas, and migration routes. There are both forested and non-forested habitats, generally in the lower elevation fringes of the forest. Many areas are south-facing slopes where snow melt and green-up occur earlier in the spring, and snow accumulation does not occur until late autumn.

Openings are common and interconnected with networks of forested habitat that provide thermal and hiding cover for big game. Road systems and trails are relatively undeveloped. Prescribed burning and mechanical or chemical treatments are used as tools to manage habitat.

Livestock grazing and related rangeland vegetation improvements, such as ponds and fences, may be present. Water developments benefit big game and livestock by improving distribution and reducing use of riparian areas.

**Desired Condition** – Vegetation will be managed to provide for winter habitat needs for wildlife, including cover, browse, and forage with excellent vigor and to provide a variety of species for food and cover. Habitat mosaics of various types, age classes, and structural stages will be found throughout the area as needed to maintain or enhance winter range. Prescribed fire will be the primary vegetation management tool, although other methods are allowed. Native insects and diseases will generally be allowed to influence forest vegetation, unless they threaten winter habitat needs. There will be no net gain in road densities in these areas, and new developments of roads, trails, and facilities will be discouraged. Other recreation uses will be discouraged in these areas should conflicts with wildlife become evident. Management of the area will be coordinated with Wyoming Game and Fish Department. Elk security areas will be retained and deficient areas improved.

- ◆ **Fire:** Wildfires will be managed to protect resource investments. Perimeter and direct control fire management strategies are appropriate management responses to wildland fire. Not all strategies are appropriate nor will be implemented for all areas allocated to this management area. The use of prescribed fire is encouraged. Evidence of active fire suppression may be apparent.

### Standards and Guidelines

#### Biological Diversity

- Guidelines 1. Allow only vegetation management practices where necessary to meet specific resource objectives of maintaining or restoring deer and elk winter range. [New]

## MANAGEMENT AREA PRESCRIPTIONS

2. Manage shrubs that are important to wintering mule deer toward a diversity of successional stages, approximately one-third early, one-third mid, and one-third late. [1985 Plan – Modified]

### Infrastructure

- Guidelines
1. Design and locate new roads to avoid important forage and cover locations. [New]
  2. Do not construct new trails. [New]

### Livestock Grazing

- Guideline
1. Follow established livestock forage use levels (Tables 1.2 and 1.3 in Plan Chapter 1) that leave forage to support wintering deer and elk. [Various sources, modified]

### Mineral and Energy Resources

- Guidelines
1. Design operating and reclamation plans to minimize or mitigate impacts to deer and elk habitat. Use seasonal restrictions to minimize disturbance. [New]
  2. Allow oil and gas leasing; but minimize ground-disturbing activities. Apply timing restrictions. [New – Nebraska Plan]

### Recreation

- Standard
1. Close existing recreation facilities within winter range during the winter and/or spring periods. [Desk Guide & 1985 Plan Modified]
- Guidelines
1. Manage for an adopted ROS class of semi-primitive nonmotorized in the winter and spring and semi-primitive motorized or roaded natural in the summer and fall. [New]
  2. Discourage or prohibit human activity during the winter and spring periods when the area is occupied by deer and elk. [Desk Guide & 1985 Plan Modified]

### Scenery

- Guidelines
1. Manage for a scenic integrity objective of moderate.

### Special Uses

- Guideline
1. Limit special use activities during the winter and spring periods. [1985 Plan Modified]

### Wildlife

- Guidelines
1. Develop habitat management goals in coordination with the state and owners of intermingled privately owned land to minimize resource conflicts on and off National Forest System lands. [1985 Plan Modified]

## 5.5 Dispersed Recreation and Forest Products

**Theme** – Management emphasis is to provide dispersed recreation opportunities and scenic values while providing for wood products, diversity of structural stages, wildlife habitat, and a variety of other goods and services.

**Setting** – These wood product-producing areas are characterized by having easy access to a water feature or other natural attraction where recreation activities occur. Harvest units and areas affected by fire, insect, and disease may be evident in the landscape.

Open roads and motorized trails provide access and roaded recreational opportunities, while closed roads may provide motorized trails or non-motorized opportunities. Directional, regulatory and informative signs foster safe use and resource protection. Developed facilities, including campgrounds, picnic areas, and trailheads may be provided to meet recreation demands.

### Desired Condition

- ◆ **Vegetation / Habitat:** Forested vegetation will exist in a range of successional stages to meet recreation, wildlife, structural stage diversity and timber objectives. Forest vegetation on suited lands will be managed to provide an even distribution of age classes. Forest vegetation on nonsuited lands will be managed for more late successional stages. Lodgepole pine will generally be managed for even-aged structure while spruce-fir will generally be managed for uneven-aged structure. Aspen stands will be maintained or increased. Insects and diseases will be managed to keep outbreaks below epidemic levels. Non-forested vegetation is managed to allow for successional progress toward a mid to late seral status unless otherwise determined in a site-specific allotment management plans. Vegetation around high value areas, such as campgrounds, summer homes, lodges and other developed facilities will have a lower fuel hazard which is characterized by lower stand densities, fewer standing dead trees, less woody debris and fewer understory trees and shrubs.
- ◆ **Fire:** Wildfires will be managed to protect resource investments. Perimeter and direct control fire management strategies are appropriate management responses to wildland fire. Not all strategies are appropriate nor will be implemented for all areas allocated to this management Area. The use of prescribed fire is encouraged. Evidence of active fire suppression may be apparent.
- ◆ **Recreation:** Typical recreation opportunities will be those which are compatible with the more developed end of the recreation opportunity spectrum including a extensive road and trail system though opportunities for more primitive recreation will exist. Some recreational activities that may be observed include hiking, viewing scenery, picnicking, fishing, hunting, ATV and motorcycle use, snowmobile use and camping in both developed and dispersed sites.

## MANAGEMENT AREA PRESCRIPTIONS

- ◆ **Scenery:** Some of the landscape will appear to be moderately altered with deviations from natural settings dominating the landscape, except for areas in the foreground of identified high concern areas which will appear only slightly altered where deviations from natural settings are subordinate to the landscape
- ◆ **Timber:** Tentatively suited timberlands in this area are included in the suitable timber base. These areas have active timber management that contribute to the scheduled ASQ. Evidence of timber management activities such as stumps, slash piles, disturbed soil and the presence of logging equipment will be less frequent along concern level one and two roads, becoming more frequent the further one travels from such roads. Openings in the forest canopy will be created to provide for this wide range of structural stages as well as the production of wood fiber. The size and shape of the created openings should blend with the size, shape, and pattern of natural openings found in the area or with the existing forested stand patterns.
- ◆ **Livestock Grazing:** Domestic livestock can be anticipated in this area during the summer grazing season. Improvements, such as fences and water developments are visible.

### Standards and Guidelines

#### Insects and Disease

- Guideline 1. Manage forested areas such that insect infestations and disease outbreaks remain locally restricted, with an emphasis on high-value recreation sites. [New]

#### Recreation

- Guidelines 1. Coordinate construction of new recreation facilities with other resource management objectives. [Desk Guide]
2. Manage for an adopted ROS class of roaded natural or roaded modified. [Desk New]
3. Manage for additional dispersed recreation opportunities such as dispersed campsites and loop trails. [New]

#### Scenery

- Guidelines 1. Manage for a scenic integrity objective of moderate in the foreground zone (1/4-1/2 mile) of concern, concern level one and two roads, trails and use areas. Minimize signs of active timber management in the foreground along concern level one and two roads.
2. In areas other than those stated above, manage for a scenic integrity objective of low.

### **Silviculture**

- Guideline
1. Manage forested lands designated as “suitable” and “scheduled” for timber production to produce wood fiber, with concern given to existing and future recreation opportunities. [1985- Modified]
  2. Manage vegetation around high value areas (e.g., campgrounds, summer homes, lodges and other developed facilities) to reduce the fuel hazard. This reduction is characterized by lower stand densities, fewer standing dead trees, less woody debris and fewer understory trees and shrubs. [New]



## Category 8

Ecological conditions are likely to be permanently altered by human activities beyond the level needed to maintain ecological processes and landscapes with a natural appearance. These areas are generally small in scale. Ecological values are protected where they affect the health and welfare of human occupancy. Areas such as mines and other concentrated uses are included in this category. Human activities generally provide jobs and income, either directly or indirectly. Motorized transportation is common.

### 8.1 Water Impoundment – Twin Lakes, Tie Hack

**Theme** – Management in these areas emphasizes water impoundments where beneficial effects are demonstrated and water rights have been obtained.

**Setting** – There are two of these areas on the Forest: Twin Lakes and Tie Hack Reservoir. Road quality may vary from native to paved surfaces. Access may be limited by use of seasonal or year-long road closures.

Boat ramps, picnic grounds and rest rooms are typically provided at such sites. Campgrounds are generally not within this management area but can be nearby, to provide accommodations for recreationists

**Desired Condition** - Water quality is maintained while recreation opportunities are provided. The appropriate management response to wildland fires will be direct control.

Direct control fire management strategy will be the appropriate management response to wildland fire. Prescribed fire is allowed.

#### Standards and Guidelines

##### Recreation

- Guideline 1. Manage for an adopted ROS class of roaded modified. [New]

##### Scenery

- Guidelines 1. Manage for a scenic integrity objective of low.

##### Silviculture

- Guidelines 1. To prevent flooding kill, clear the shoreline of trees and brush from the high waterline to the seasonal low waterline. [1985 Plan – Modified]
2. Base tree removal on an evaluation of: clearing costs, wildlife habitat, fire danger, site esthetics, public safety, and utilization for recreation, dam spillway capacity and plugging problems and maintenance.

3. Clear the entire pool area if the remaining brush creates greater use, maintenance, user safety and dam safety costs than clearing costs. [1985 Plan]

### Water Use Management

- Guidelines
1. Protect soil and water resources. [1985 Plan]
  2. Review and approve a construction or enlargement permit for a reservoir only when application for appropriate storage rights have been approved. [1985 Plan]
  3. Approved reservoir design and construction specifications will meet Forest Service Manual direction. [1985 Plan - Modified]
  4. Require proponent to obtain Corps of Engineers 404 permits for navigable streams. [1985 Plan]
  5. Require proponent to obtain State and County permits as required. [1985 Plan]
  6. Provide a site-specific diversion and sedimentation plan to prevent significant harm to the stream, fishery and/or downstream structures and water supplies. [1985 Plan]
  7. Revegetate disturbed soils by the following growing season. [1985 Plan]
  8. Apply the following construction and reconstruction standards to local roads:
    - a. Travel speed: Average less than 20 mph.
    - b. Lanes: Usually single lane except for developed recreation sites.
    - c. Surface: Varies from asphalt to native surface; majority native surface.
    - d. Width: Typically 10 to 14 feet. Turnouts optional depending upon traffic management. Usually not intervisible (one turnout is not visible from the next one).
    - e. Drainage: Dips and culverts. [1985 Plan]

## 8.22 Ski-based Resorts, Existing/Potential

**Theme** – Areas with existing ski-based resorts or potential ski-based resorts are managed to provide for skiing and related recreation uses.

**Setting** – These areas are primarily designed for downhill skiing. Housing for year-round recreation use may be permitted

**Desired Condition** – Ski runs will be designed to blend and harmonize with the natural terrain but may still be evident as a ski run. Recreation facilities, such as buildings, lifts and groomed trails, will be evident. At the base development, services and facilities will be designed to complement the overall forest setting and will serve the needs of forest visitors. Opportunities to experience solitude will be very limited during the winter sports season. Opportunities to view wildlife and their habitat will be available throughout the year but may be limited by the amount of recreational use.

Changes to vegetation composition and structure will result in forested areas interspersed with openings of varying widths and shapes. Forested areas will be managed for aesthetics and recreation and for their resistance to windthrow, fire and insect and disease infestation.

There will be a developed road system. The trail system may include trails designed for hiking, horseback riding, mountain biking and ski touring. Trail signs will be consistent with the ski area sign plan.

Direct control fire management strategy will be the appropriate management response to wildland fire. Prescribed fire is allowed.

### Standards and Guidelines

#### Aquatic Resources

- Guidelines
1. Conduct snowmaking activities and other water depletions to conserve stream pattern, geometry, substrate composition, and aquatic habitat in affected perennial streams. [Desk Guide]
  2. Conduct snow management activities, including snowmaking and snow farming, to prevent slope failures and gully erosion, as well as bank erosion and sediment damage in receiving channels. [Desk Guide]

#### Infrastructure

- Guidelines
1. Retain vegetation to screen facilities from key viewpoints. [Desk Guide]
  2. Design facilities with an architectural theme intended to blend facilities with the natural environment consistent with the BEIG. [Desk Guide]

3. Design roads to minimize visual impacts. Plan the location and size of cuts and fills to avoid conflicts with skiers and other recreation users. [Desk Guide]

### **Insects and Disease**

- Guideline 1. Use a full range of pest management activities and methods to prevent or eradicate insect and disease outbreaks. [New]

### **Livestock Grazing**

- Guideline 1. Manage the timing, duration, and intensity of grazing, trailing, and livestock impacts to minimize conflicts with recreation and other uses. [Various sources, modified]
2. Design and implement livestock management activities to protect and manage the watershed, and to prevent erosion. Livestock forage use levels will be established that will assure residue is not removed to a level that may result in accelerated erosion. [New]

### **Mineral and Energy Resources**

- Guidelines 1. Withdraw permitted areas from availability for mineral entry. [Desk Guide]
2. Allow for oil and gas leasing, with a No Surface Occupancy stipulation. [Desk Guide]

### **Recreation**

- Guidelines 1. When conducting resource management activities, minimize impacts to recreational resources within existing permitted sites and areas planned for future development. [Desk Guide]
2. Manage for an adopted ROS class of rural. [New]
3. Consider year-round recreation activities as part of the Master Development Plan. [New]

### **Scenery**

- Guidelines 1. Meet the scenic integrity objective of low.
2. “Soften” lines and forms indicating past activities and geometric shapes associated with ski trail and lift development as opportunities become available

## MANAGEMENT AREA PRESCRIPTIONS

### Silviculture

- Guidelines
1. Use vegetation management practices to maintain and improve ski-based resort objectives. [1985 Plan – Modified]
  2. Manage stands and islands to provide a variety of species and size classes, perpetuate forest cover, and complement snow management objectives, scenery and recreational values. [1985 Plan Modified]
  3. Conduct ski area management activities that compliment age and species diversity. [Define better – per Bernie]
  4. Retain vegetation for screening around structures where vegetation recovery will be slow. [1985 Plan – Modified]
  5. Restrict cutting trees or locating structures in avalanche zones or areas that may initiate mass wasting. [New]